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U.S. Trims Rates Amid Signs Growth Is Slowing

Central Bank Cites Subdued Inflation, Wall St. Cheers Step

By Lawrence Malkin
International Herald Tribune

NEW YORK — Caught in heavy financial and political crosswinds, the U.S. central bank trimmed its key short-term interest rate on Tuesday by a quarter of a percentage point, to 5.5 percent.

With sluggish retail sales at Christmas signaling that some of the bounce is going out of the U.S. economy, the Federal Reserve Board's policy-setting Open Market Committee trimmed the Federal Funds rate — the rate banks charge each other for overnight loans. The last time rates were cut was on July 6, when the Fed Funds rate was lowered to 5.75 percent from 6.00 percent.

Justifying the rate cut in economic terms, the Fed said weak inflation played a major role in its decision. The choice to cut rates comes at a time when many in the financial markets feared — mistakenly, as it turned out — that the central bank would hesitate to move until the White House and Congress managed to reach an agreement on how to balance the budget.

At the end of the Federal Open Market Committee meeting, Alan Greenspan, the Fed's chairman, said, "Since the last easing of monetary policy in July, inflation has been somewhat more favorable than anticipated." This, he said, "warrants a modest easing in monetary conditions."

Mr. Greenspan did not mention a string of statistics showing the economy softening, including slower housing starts, retail sales, and Christmas-season employment.

Wall Street reacted positively. Stocks, bonds and the dollar rose, making up for some of the ground lost Monday, when the Dow Jones industrial average fell 101.52 points, or 2 percent, to 5,075.21. (Page 12)

The stock market was dragged down Monday by the weekend collapse of budget talks between Congress and the White House, which generated fears that the Fed would delay the cut in the federal-funds rate until the budget battle was settled.

But many market analysts felt stocks had been overvalued for a correction anyway. The Dow Jones average is up 33 percent this year even with Monday's loss, and fund managers have been looking for an excuse to sell and lock in their profits by the end of the year, analysts said.

Banc One responded to the Fed's move by cutting its prime lending rate, the rate it charges its most creditworthy customers, to 8.50 percent from 8.75 percent.

President Bill Clinton said he was not especially worried by Wall Street as he prepared to enter the budget talks personally Tuesday afternoon. He told reporters, "If the markets are worried about the deficit, they should forget about it, because the deficit is going to come down regardless."

Financial markets had made Fed's decision more difficult. Wall Street has tried to turn the central bank into an unwilling actor in its own self-fulfilling prophecies. This anticipation has had "the Fed trapped," said David Jones of Aubrey Lamont & Co., because Wall Street has been feeding on hopes of a cut, and failure to deliver could have hurt the markets.

The Fed has also tried to duck the budget battle. Mr. Greenspan has raised a high profile in pushing his fellow Republicans in Congress to balance the budget. But he also has repeatedly said that it would be wrong for the central bank to lower rates as a quid pro quo to counteract the economic drag of any deficit cut. On this point, he recently won support from the Fed's vice chairman, Alan Blinder, a Democrat, who said "the idea that we should punish or reward a budget deal is preposterous."

The Fed meeting Tuesday most likely remained focused on the economy. Mr. Jones, who expected a rate cut, said the Fed was facing a weakening economy as retail sales declined and inventories built up.



Gennadi Zyuganov, the Russian Communist leader, whose party will control about a third of the seats in Duma. (Alexander Demianchuk/Reuters)

Moscow Plays Down Election Setback

'We Will Not Change Course,' Prime Minister Vows

By Lee Hockstader
Washington Post Service

place and will take place in future, but they have nothing to do with this."

Despite the prime minister's comments, it was still widely expected here that Foreign Minister Andrei V. Kozyrev, who was elected to Parliament on Sunday, will be resigning from the government. There was also speculation that First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoli B. Chubais, the architect of Russia's privatization program and a favorite whipping boy for Communists and nation-

lists, could be forced out as the government regroups and licks its wounds in the wake of the Communist victory.

The Communists, who seemed on the verge of extinction four years ago, staged a strong comeback in Sunday's vote and are set to control about a third of the seats in the 450-member State Duma, or lower house of Parliament.

With ballots still being tallied, it

See RUSSIA, Page 4

For Balkan Nations, a New Old Policy

Containment Is U.S. Goal

By John Pomfret
Washington Post Service

BELGRADE — In an effort to ensure that war does not return to the Balkans during or after a year-long peacekeeping mission by U.S. and NATO troops, the United States has adopted one of the principal measures it used to stabilize Europe after World War II: containment.

Just as Washington built alliances, including NATO, to prevent Soviet communism and influence from spreading in the 1950s and 1960s, it is now quietly forging military bonds with every country that borders on Yugoslavia. The Serbians, who started the last four years of war, remain the region's most threatening military power.

Hungary, Romania, Macedonia and Albania are all participants in NATO's Partnership for Peace, the program designed by Washington for joint training and other military ties. All four, as well as Croatia, have signed bilateral defense documents with Washington.

The Croatian Army is helped by American advisers and Bosnia has been promised weapons and training, either by U.S. forces or through third parties. American soldiers and spies could be spotted all over the Balkans in recent months: CIA agents and army personnel were at an air base in northern Albania, south of Serbia, launching pilotless spy planes. A detachment of 650 U.S. soldiers is spending its third winter shivering in the mountains of northern Macedonia, east of Serbia, in a peacekeeping mission.



A British tank driver checking his gear in exercises for deployment to Bosnia. (AP Wirephoto)

North of Serbia in southern Hungary, U.S. military teams are patching together two huge logistics depots for the Bosnian operation atop the foundations of former missile sites of the defunct Warsaw Pact.

While Serbia is the focus of the new arc of containment, U.S. officials stress that other states, including Croatia, with its vastly improved army, or Albania, with its nascent territorial ambitions, could also bear the brunt of U.S. economic and military pressure if they threatened their neighbors.

The evolving network of ties reflects a

continuing escalation of U.S. involvement in the Balkans. When war began between Croatia and rebel Serbs in its territory in 1991, the United States refused to become involved, arguing that no American interest was at stake. After 1992, when war began in Bosnia among Serbs, Croats and the Muslim-led government, the Clinton administration tried to use airpower to support a failing UN peacekeeping mission but otherwise remained on the sidelines.

See BALKANS, Page 6

'Engineered' Insects Are Ready to Romp

By Rick Weiss
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — After spending years struggling with the technical difficulties of adding new genes to arthropods — the group of organisms that includes insects, spiders and mites — scientists have

finally succeeded in making genetically engineered bugs and are preparing to release them.

Last month, a University of Florida entomologist, Marjorie A. Hoy, became the first to ask the U.S. Department of Agriculture for permission to release a genetically altered arthropod into an outdoor test plot. The agency is considering that request, which involves a genetically enhanced line of beneficial "predator mites." The tiny, wingless, eight-legged creatures are about the size of the period at the end of this sentence and feed on spider mites, their crop-damaging cousins.

Other researchers are putting finishing touches on engineered insects that may be ready next year, including cotton-munching moths that scientists have endowed with "suicide genes." Further in the future: mosquitoes with new genes that scientists hope will make them unable to spread human diseases.

"The exciting news is that someone has finally gotten far enough along in the research to put something out in the field."

139 Killed in Angolan Plane Crash

Dow Jones	Trib Index
Up 34.58	Down 0.68%
5109.25	129.48
The Dollar	previous close
Up 1.443	1.4222
Down 1.542	1.542
Up 102.00	101.525
Down 4.9565	4.9224

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CIA Chief Predicts Surge in Terrorism

Deutch Says He Is Redirecting Agency to Confront New Threats

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — The director of central intelligence on Tuesday forecast "tremendous growth" in terrorism worldwide over the next 10 to 15 years, and said he was redirecting the CIA's focus to deal with the threat.

The director, John M. Deutch, said in congressional testimony that the surge in terrorism would have "immense impact on how we conduct our foreign policy, immense impact on how American businesses operate abroad."

His comments came at the end of a difficult year for the Central Intelligence Agency, which Mr. Deutch took charge of in May. It has taken heavy fire for questionable activities abroad and for its inability to ferret out a Soviet mole, Aldrich H. Ames, before he had done grave damage to the agency.

The CIA has been struggling, as well, to retool itself for a mission built on hard Cold War certainties but on the confusions and complexity of a multipolar world.

Its new enemies, as Mr. Deutch made clear Tuesday, will increasingly be not just foreign dictators or Communist movements abroad, but drug traffickers, weapons smugglers, religious zealots and even business spies.

In his testimony to the House Select Intelligence Committee, Mr. Deutch listed several possible points of concern:

• Ethnic and religious differences will cause continued instability and become a growing source of international terrorism.

• Transnational groups involved in terrorism, organized crime and narcotics trafficking will present a continuing threat.

• Governments "inimical to democracy," including Iran, Iraq and North Korea, will continue to cause friction with their neighbors.

• Chemical and biological weapons will continue to pose a threat, notably from states including Libya, Iraq and Iran.

• Nuclear proliferation will remain a major concern.

• Competition for resources and markets will grow more intense.

The CIA will be paying its closest attention, Mr. Deutch added, to developments in Russia and China, "because these nations have the greatest military power for the foreseeable future."

Mr. Deutch said the CIA and the other U.S. intelligence agencies were "shifting resources" to cope with the many overlapping threats.

The explosion in communications channels and information technology, Mr. Deutch said, presented both an opportunity and a threat to U.S. interests, and would have "a tremendous impact on warfare in the future."

America's lead in information technologies, Mr. Deutch said, gave it a "comparative advantage" in assuring that our military commanders have dominant battlefield awareness." This advantage could help form "the foundation of our military superiority for the future."

But growing reliance on information technologies, out just by the military but also by the business and financial sectors, points to a troubling vulnerability, he testified.

An important priority in coming years, Mr. Deutch said, would be to protect U.S. information systems "from disruption and exploitation."

He called for a halt in criticism of the CIA's covert operations arm, which has been subjected to harsh scrutiny in recent years for dubious operations.

Mr. Deutch, the first CIA director since the Reagan administration to hold cabinet status, has led a vigorous campaign to tame what many in Congress see as an inefficient and sometimes dangerously unruly agency.

Holbrooke Shifts Targets: Now He'll Tackle Cyprus

By Michael Dobbs
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Richard C. Holbrooke, the man who negotiated the Bosnian peace agreement signed last week in Paris, is planning a new bout of shuttle diplomacy, this time to promote a comprehensive peace agreement for Cyprus on the Bosnian model.

Mr. Holbrooke said the Cyprus negotiations in late January would be his last assignment before resigning as assistant secretary of state for European affairs in February.

"We intend to make 1996 the year of the big push on Cyprus," Mr. Holbrooke said.

The island, divided into Turkish and Greek-speaking segments since 1974, was recently named as a possible candidate for membership of the European Union.

Administration officials said Mr. Holbrooke informed President Bill Clinton of his intention to leave while he was flying back to Washington from Paris, and had had several conversations on the subject with Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher. They said they expected Mr. Holbrooke to continue to play an advisory role on Bosnia, and possibly undertake diplomatic missions to the region, even after his resignation.

In the last nine months, there have been widespread rumors that Mr. Holbrooke was on the point of leaving the State Department, and his departure plans came as little surprise. An investment banker before joining the Clinton administration, he began talking about returning to Wall Street last spring, to spend more time with his new wife, the author Kati Marton.

"I will leave early next year, which is behind my original schedule," Mr. Holbrooke said in a telephone interview from New York. "I am not walking away. I will leave with total support for this administration, and the policies which I was part of."

Before his appointment last August as the chief U.S. negotiator to the former Yugoslavia, Mr. Holbrooke was reported to be frustrated with the State Department bureaucracy and his own inability to make a difference on Bosnia.

But four months of intense shuttle diplomacy, culminating in the negotiation of the Dayton peace agreement last month, appeared to re-energize him, and he insisted Monday that his motives for leaving were "entirely personal."

"My wife worries that I was spending more time with Haris Silajdzic than with her," he said jokingly, speaking of the Bosnian prime minister.

He said that he had "an option to return to Wall Street," but that he had no firm job lined up and expected to spend some time traveling and writing.

State department officials said they expected Mr. Holbrooke to leave in February. They said his probable successor was John Kornblum, an arms-control expert who is presently the principal deputy assistant secretary of state in the European department.

Although Mr. Holbrooke's frenetic personal style frequently grated on his colleagues, he is widely credited with the diplomatic heavy-lifting that led up to the Dayton accord. He was prepared to take extraordinary personal and diplomatic risks to achieve an agreement between the parties and was ultimately rewarded.

The Food Fight At 30,000 Feet

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Fifteen travelers were returned to London from the United States after a fight broke out during a Northwest Airlines flight, officials said.

Two others were being held by U.S. authorities until they sobered up, and a third was arrested on charges of interfering with the crew for allegedly trying to punch a flight attendant, officials said. All had British or Irish passports.

A spokeswoman for the airline, Marta Laughlin, said the travelers objected to having their drinking limited on the flight, which originated in London, made a scheduled stop in Minneapolis on Monday, then continued on to Los Angeles.

They began throwing food, yelling and swearing, she said. As the chaos escalated, members of the U.S. Olympic wrestling team on board the DC-10 reportedly helped subdue three "extremely intoxicated" men, who were handcuffed in their seats.

Pushed Aside for Cattle / 'First People of the Kalahari'

'Whose Land Is This?' the Bushmen Ask

By Nora Boustany
Washington Post Service

John Hardbattle, born to a father from England and a mother from the Nharo tribe of the No'akwe, the "first people of the Kalahari" desert region, has always lived at one with nature. He climbed trees before he learned to walk, and ate resin from their trunks in times of drought. His father, Tom, went to South Africa as a retired policeman and then wandered into Botswana, which in 1966 became a sovereign country bordering South Africa and Namibia. He fell in love with a beautiful singer named Kwai, whose melodic chants echoed through the valleys, inviting clans from miles away to join spiritual trance dances around her family fire.

"My first conscious memory is of people coming together to dance," he says. "I am not talking about hours but days. It is a healing and bonding experience bringing people together."

The women dance in an inner circle around a fire and the men surround them. Sometimes they cut through the flames. "You sleep, you wake up, you have the fire, which is central to our lives," he says.

Today, these gatherer-hunters who survived the sun-soaked desert for millennia are clinging to an existence somewhere between life and death. They have been driven out of their homelands into bleak settlements by new landowners and their own government to make room for grazing cattle. Mr. Hardbattle, 50, has become his people's representative, telling the story of their plight to the world.

His mission began when some elders of the No'akwe, also known as the Bushmen, sought his counsel in 1992: "They asked me a very simple question: 'Whose land is this?'"

They could not comprehend what was happening to them, he said. They chose Mr. Hardbattle as their spokesman because he has lived in their midst and in the West.

"As they told me, I can sit at the fire of my mother's people and get up and sit at the table of my father's people, since I am a man of two worlds," he says.

His mandate is "to open doors" for his people.

To that end, he traveled to the United States seeking assistance for projects that will bring basic services to his people and help improve their lives. Sponsored by the First Nations Development Institute, he visited Washington and New York recently and met with World Bank officials. He also spoke to the Ford Foundation and Summit, a conservation group.

At home, he is mobilizing his people by driving from settlement to settlement. "You cannot imagine how isolated we are," he said. "No telephones. Wherever I went, it was the same problems. There is nothing there. I don't know how they wake up in the morning."

The No'akwe cannot feed their children and are not allowed to hunt.

"We are not a people who hoarded or built villages or towns," he said. "We moved with the seasons — yes, we lived from nature. Our people have been stripped of all their rights and resources."

They only rarely get food assistance. The few girls who make it to secondary school and live in dormitories in the cities are often raped.

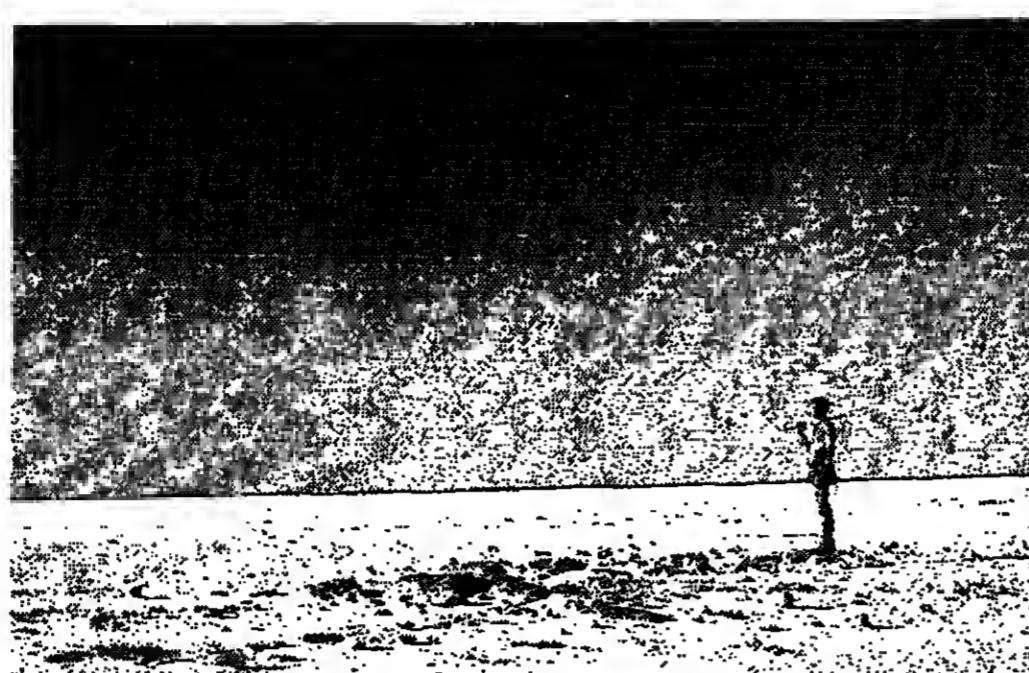
"Our people have been dispossessed," he said. "Our people have been dispossessed."

Last May, a team of Dutch researchers issued a study that has raised concerns about the fate of 600 Bushmen who left their settlements in search of food and have not been heard from since.

No'akwe poachers are often arrested and tortured by wildlife police, notes a University of Nebraska anthropologist, Robert K. Hitchcock, who says he talked to them and saw the scars.

When Mr. Hardbattle spoke out on the No'akwe's problems at a Botswana Society conference in the capital, Gabarone, three years ago, "it was like a bomb going off, and the government was out amused."

Summoned with other leaders to meet officials at



John Hardbattle, right, is fighting for the hard-pressed No'akwe.

police headquarters, he says a government official threatened, "We own you. Don't think that the donors will be here forever, and when these donors leave, it will be just you and us" — a reference to European relief agencies that have taken an interest in the No'akwe's plight.

"The government is afraid of him and they don't want him stirring things up," says Mr. Hitchcock, the anthropologist. "He is in a good position to do this. People will listen to him; there is a lot of positive feeling about him. He is unique, he speaks the language." Most words uttered by the No'akwe are produced with guttural clicking sounds.

Mr. Hardbattle learned to speak English at age 6, when, according to tradition, he moved into his father's house. After his father died eight years later, in 1959, Mr. Hardbattle, his brother and two sisters were sent to England. He lived with an aunt in Yorkshire, and his siblings were taken in by a cousin in Liverpool.

Their mother remained at home, their only link to Africa. He calls her fortitude and serenity the source of his strength.

He was unhappy in England. At Christmas 1972, he was drawn back to Botswana and realized it was where he belonged.

"I took one look and I knew," he says of a journey through South Africa that took several days, three of them in a candle car. He searched for his mother in Botswana but did not find her. He returned in 1975, found her and together they settled on property his father had bought. His is the only No'akwe family that owns its own land.

The little, graceful inhabitants of the Kalahari make up an egalitarian society based on sharing and a wisdom wedded to nature, according to Mr. Hitchcock. The region's ancient civilization used seeds, nuts, herbs, roots and roots as medicine, contraceptives, food and skin lotions. When animals abandon the grass in the thirdbands of the desert, the Bushmen endure by digging up bulbs to eat and by squeezing moisture from vegetable skins. Children lick dew from leaves laid out overnight. The No'akwe have their own code of civility and etiquette.

In this culture, people consider animals equals and men kneel after hunting down a wildebeest to apologize. To this day, they do not go after game with guns but use a small bow and arrows dipped in a tranquilizing potion.

To make room for cattle and huge fenced areas for their protection, the No'akwe have been forced into settlements where they have been provided with little except schools and the odd water tap, one for each 500 people. Botswana's constitution does not rec-

ognize the 50,000 bush dwellers among its eight official tribes. In a state that calls itself democratic and is among Africa's richest, these foragers have been cast adrift into an unfamiliar wilderness where nothing grows for miles.

When white farmers started raising cattle on their land, the competition for resources began. After Botswana gained independence from Britain in 1966, there was a proliferation of cattle farmers, white and black. The native people are red.

An agreement with the European Union in 1972, known as the beef protocol, allowed Botswana to sell cattle at the highest world prices. Livestock ownership became not only lucrative but a status symbol, and the cattle population grew to several million.

British documents from 1895 on the establishment of white farm colonies there described Botswana in these words: "Very nice and suitable for white people to live, there is a lot of game there, shallow water is to be had by digging wells and it is very good for the establishment of cattle farms."

"Then it goes on to say there are no natives there except a few wild bushmen," Mr. Hardbattle comments.

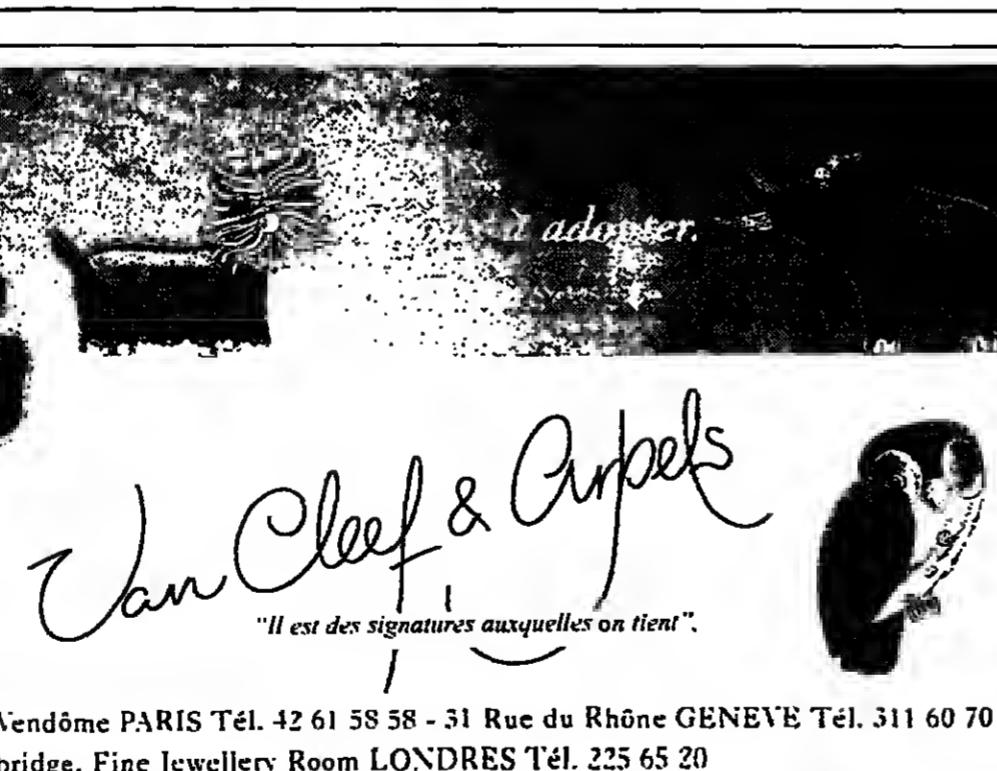
"So even from the perspective of the English, we as a people didn't exist."

Mr. Hardbattle refuses to call himself a leader. "I am not promoting myself as a leader," he says. "It is not like here when you tell people vote for me and I will set you free. It is more complicated. What has happened to our viable culture? Now they can give them food, and when they take it away, our people have nothing. What else can they do to our people? Just put a gun to their heads."

"This is my mission, my whole life. It is all that I have known, all that I believe in. If I have any ambition, it is that my people should live."

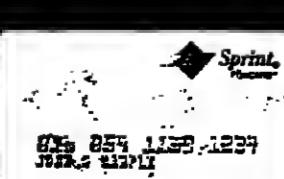
COMING UP

California, a crucial piston for the economy of the United States, is tasting strong recovery after years of recession, thanks to a jobs explosion in three key sectors. The state's governor now boasts: "California is back!"



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THE AMERICAS

Clinton Sits Down With Budget Foes

Reuters

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton on Tuesday met Republican congressional leaders in an effort to resolve the budget crisis that partially shut the government for the second time in a month and rattled financial markets.

Mr. Clinton said he hoped the White House meeting with the Senate majority leader, Bob Dole of Kansas, and the speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich of Georgia, would help settle the budget crisis and end a partial government shutdown that has idled 250,000 federal workers.

"Only the Congress can shut the government down and only the Congress can reopen it," Mr. Clinton said after he vetoed a spending bill for the Departments of State, Justice and Commerce because it would eliminate funds earmarked for hiring 100,000 more police officers.

"It's just wrong for the federal employees and even more for the American people to have the government closed the week before Christmas," Mr. Clinton said.

Visa Services Suspended

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The State Department spokesman, Nicholas Burns, said visa-issuing services were being suspended at U.S. embassies worldwide because of the budget impasse between President Bill Clinton and congressional Republicans.

Exceptions will be made for people who need to go to the United States "for compelling cases of life or death emergencies, or family or medical emergencies."

It was the first face-to-face talk between Mr. Clinton, Mr. Dole and Mr. Gingrich since the budget crisis began last month.

"The president wants to get the government open and he wants to balance the budget and there doesn't appear to be any way toward those goals without a face-to-face discussion," said the White House spokesman, Michael McCurry.

After the meeting with the two Republican leaders, Mr. Clinton was to meet the Democratic leader of the Senate, Thomas A. Daschle, and the House minority leader, Richard A. Gephardt.

The other alternative offered by Mr. Clinton was for the three leaders to meet with no strings attached.

Mr. Clinton has been urging the Republican-led Congress to work with him on a compromise to reopen the government and balance the budget in seven years. He used a lobbying reform bill he signed into law on Tuesday to show what the two political parties can do when they work together.

"On this matter, Democrats and Republicans acted together to put the public interest above partisanship and they faced withering pressure to do otherwise," he said.

Shortly before the start of talks with Republican leaders, Mr. Clinton sought to reassure financial markets about the efforts to reduce the deficit.

"The deficit will keep coming down, regardless," he said.

But in Congress, the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, Pete V. Domenici, said it would be very difficult to reach any quick agreement on a seven-year balanced budget.



Doug Mills/The Associated Press

Some Hillary Clinton Papers Missing in Whitewater Inquiry

By Stephen Labaton
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Documents describing Hillary Rodham Clinton's work for a failing savings and loan vanished from her former law firm in Little Rock sometime before President Bill Clinton took office, according to the Senate Whitewater panel.

Republicans on the committee said the missing papers were crucial to understanding the role Mrs. Clinton played during the 1980s, when her firm represented the failing savings and loan association, Madison Guaranty, before regulators appointed by her husband, then governor.

The missing documents include billing records from the Rose Law Firm, where she was a partner, and

time sheets prepared in the 1980s that describe what Mrs. Clinton did for Madison.

Mrs. Clinton's ties to Madison are an expanding focus of the Whitewater investigations by the Senate committee and the independent counsel, Kenneth W. Starr, according to investigators and witnesses who have spoken with members of Mr. Starr's staff.

The new director of the probe has grown out of investigators' efforts to determine whether there was anything improper in the relationship between the Clintons and the owner of Madison, James B. McDougal, in the mid-1980s as he struggled to keep the savings and loan association afloat before it failed at a cost to taxpayers of \$60 million. Mr. McDougal was the Clintons' partner in Whitewater.

Evidence of the missing records emerged when the Whitewater committee released notes taken in 1992 by Susan Thomases, a lawyer who is one of the Clintons' closest advisers, as she drew up a strategy for answering questions about Mrs. Clinton's ties to Madison, before the first newspaper article on Whitewater had appeared.

A reference to the missing records appeared in her notes of a Feb. 24, 1992, conversation between Ms. Thomases and Webster L. Hubbell, a former law partner of Mrs. Clinton at the Rose firm.

"We've looked high and low for these records, and we can't find them," Michael Chertoff, chief counsel to the Republicans on the Senate Whitewater committee, said. "We don't have any time sheets for Mrs.

Clinton; they have disappeared."

In the notes, Mr. Hubbell gives an account of Mrs. Clinton's role based on the records that have since vanished. Ms. Thomases writes that, according to time records, Mrs. Clinton had "numerous" conferences with Madison executives and an associate at the law firm about two issues pending in the mid-1980s before state regulators appointed by Mr. Clinton.

Ms. Thomases' notes show that from the earliest days of the presidential campaign, Clinton aides struggled to put some distance between Mrs. Clinton and the work the Rose firm did for Madison before state regulators in 1985. But what she did for Madison is still being examined.

Mrs. Clinton has said she played a "very limited" role in representing

the association's interests before state regulators. The Clintons' personal lawyer, David E. Kendall, also said that her work for Madison was "by any standard, very limited."

The new information about Mrs. Clinton's work for Madison was contained in two pages of notes made public by the Senate committee. These notes, combined with other documents disclosed by congressional and federal investigators in recent months, bear on the account she has given of her work for Madison.

The law firm's remaining records, for instance, show that more than one-third of the fees charged to Madison were attributed to her work. These records, which were released by savings and loans regulators, are vague as to specifics.

POLITICAL NOTES

A Long Road for Waldholtz

WASHINGTON — The federal investigation into the campaign and personal finances of Representative Enid Waldholtz, Republican of Utah, and her husband, Joseph, could take as long as a year, according to a source familiar with the inquiry.

The FBI is looking into allegations of check kiting, illegal campaign financing and the filing of fraudulent financial disclosure and election reports with Congress and the Federal Election Commission, the source said.

Mrs. Waldholtz said last week that she had not decided whether to seek re-election next year. But the prospect of a lengthy grand jury inquiry stretching into 1996 could make a re-election bid more difficult.

A poll published Sunday by the Salt Lake Tribune of voters in her district found that 69 percent did not believe Mrs. Waldholtz should run again and 60 percent would vote against her if she did.

The source cautioned against expecting any possible deal in the immediate future with her husband, whose attorney had hinted that a deal might be worked out to get his client to testify against his estranged wife.

The federal grand jury investigation began in November after allegations surfaced that Mr. Waldholtz had kited checks using bank accounts that he and his wife maintained in Washington and Utah. Although Mrs. Waldholtz initially denied the allegations, she changed her position after her husband disappeared on Nov. 11. (WP)

'Secret Seven' Loses a Pair

MINNEAPOLIS — Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey and Governor Angus King of Maine have distanced themselves from the policies of a group of centrist politicians who appear unlikely to field a presidential candidate.

"My participation was never about a candidacy, or a desire to create a third party, despite press coverage to the contrary," Mr. Bradley said in a statement from Washington.

Mr. King said he was dropping out of the discussions because they were taking too much of his time.

At a Minneapolis symposium, a former presidential candidate, Paul Tsongas, a former Colorado governor, Dick Lamm, and a former Minnesota congressman, Timothy J. Penny, were outlining the basic principles of the informal group, dubbed the "Secret Seven" even though the number of participants has frequently shifted.

Those principles included making a balanced budget a top government priority. Originally, group members met secretly via teleconference to discuss political issues.

"For me, the rising economic security of people who work every day and worry about their future is the most pressing issue our country faces," Mr. Bradley's statement said. "The balanced budget is important, but it is only a part of a larger set of challenges."

Mr. Tsongas, a former Massachusetts senator who ran unsuccessfully for the 1992 Democratic presidential nomination, has said the group represented a "passionate center" that is fiscally conservative, socially tolerant, pro-environment and angered by the slow pace of campaign-finance reform.

"We're not here to form an independent party or field an independent candidate," Mr. Penny said. "Our first goal is to challenge one or both of the major parties to move to the center."

Neither Mr. Bradley nor Mr. King signed on to the group's basic principles, which included making children the focus of policies, calling the current Social Security system unsustainable, calling for political reform as well as racial and gender reconciliation and protecting the environment.

All of the group's members were Democrats or independents. (AP)

Quote/Unquote

Malcolm S. Forbes, the publisher turned candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, was asked on Senator Bob Dole's new position on abortion: "What issue hasn't Dole shifted on?" (NYT)

Préval Wins in Haiti Amid Voter Apathy Blow to Young Democracy

The Associated Press

PORTE-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Hédi Préval's president-elect has remained in seclusion despite unofficial results that show he overwhelmingly won an election that most Haitians ignored.

At least 70 percent of voters turned their backs on Haiti's fledgling democratic process, a blow to René Préval, the new leader, and a U.S. administration that sent troops to Haiti under "Operation Uphold Democracy."

The voting Sunday followed a lackluster campaign overshadowed by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Many Haitians want the popular leader to remain in power, although the constitution bars him from seeking another term.

"Préval is our president! With Aristide for his adviser!" declared about 500 people dancing through central Port-au-Prince Sunday night.

Their comments put Mr. Préval squarely where he has stood throughout the election campaign — in the shadow of Haiti's popular president. He welcomed that position while it

AMERICAN TOPICS

Texas Businesses Ponder Gun Detectors

Starting Jan. 1, Texans with permits will be allowed to carry concealed weapons, and businesses are having trouble deciding whether to ban guns from their premises and, if so, how.

Some are considering metal detectors.

Others, seeing this as unfriendly to potential customers, will post a simple sign showing a gun in a circle with a red slash through it. Nobody has announced plans to frisk people, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports.

The law allows Texans to receive a handgun permit after completing classroom and gun-range training.

Many businesses are looking to Florida, which has permitted concealed weapons for the last eight years. Businesses there have contented themselves mostly with signs, seldom with metal detectors.

Even with a permit, Texans will be prohibited from carrying concealed weapons into such places as bars, schools, hospitals, sporting events, or businesses posting signs that guns are banned.

Jeff Davis, president of the Safeco Land Title insurance company in Fort Worth, says: "We just don't feel it's appropriate to have customers, clients, with handguns on the premises. Guns shouldn't be present with final negotiations going on."

Short Takes

A cultural exchange program enabling young foreigners to work as live-in baby sitters in the United States has won final congressional approval for a two-year extension, to September 1997. The "au pair" program attracts up to 13,000 young people, mostly European women, annually to the United States. The U.S. Information Agency oversees the program. Private agencies match families and candidates. The visiting nannies are paid \$115 weekly plus food and lodging, \$15 more than last year.

Schocken Books, a division of Random House, has published Volume 1 of the Schocken Bible. "The Five Books of Moses," a new translation by Everett Fox. It is meant to reflect the poetry of the original language and to emphasize that it was written to be read aloud. "This translation redefines the Bible as a book written in Hebrew," said Arthur Samuelson, Schocken's editorial director. "Hebrew has its own pace, its own way of making poetry, which is much different from that of English. Most translations make the Bible sound as though it were written by Shakespeare or else that it was written yesterday. But this makes it sound like something closer to an ancient Near Eastern document."

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As lumber prices rise and timber quality falls, American steel mills are moving into housing construction. Although long used for skyscrapers and bridges, steel is used in the framework of only 1 percent of U.S. dwellings, said Gopal Ahluwalia, research director for the National Association of Home Builders in Washington. But, he said, jumps in the price of lumber in 1993-94 increased builders' interest in galvanized steel, which is more durable, stronger, more precisely machined and easier to assemble than wood. It's also fireproof and impervious to pests.

International Herald Tribune

Away From Politics

A powerful bomb in a 30-gallon drum was found in a parking lot outside an Internal Revenue Service office in Reno, Nevada. Its fuse had been lit but it fizzled out before the bomb could do damage. About 60 people were evacuated. (AP)

A convenience store clerk faces murder charges after it was accused of chasing down and shooting to death a 15-year-old who stole beer from the store in Omaha, Nebraska. The store had been robbed in the past and the owner kept a .38-caliber revolver under the cash register, telling his workers it was for their protection. (AP)

Three men suspected of plotting to invade Cuba were arrested and a stockpile of assault rifles and other military equipment was seized from a Los Angeles business, the FBI announced. Federal agents removed more than two truckloads of weapons and equipment, including assault rifles, body armor and radio equipment from the warehouse and office of a dealer of heavy industrial equipment. (LAT)

A probation department report will recommend that the former treasurer of Orange County, California, Robert L. Citron, be spared a term in state prison for six felony convictions and be sentenced to a year or less in county jail and probation. Superior Court Judge David O. Carter was told. But Mr. Citron's attorney, David W. Wiechert, informed the judge that the district attorney's office planned to argue for a stiffer sentence. (LAT)

The first person in Canada convicted of assisting a suicide received a suspended sentence for helping her best friend die. Mary Jane Fogarty, 39, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, was charged after her friend, Brenda Barnes, 36, who was depressed, died in May 1994 of an insulin overdose. Ms. Fogarty is diabetic. (AP)

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Ross Thomas, 69, the author of the political thrillers "Chinaman's Chance," "The Cold War Swap" and "Briarpatch," died Monday at St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica, California.

The cause was lung cancer, said his wife, Rosalie.

Mr. Thomas, who also wrote under the pseudonym Oliver Bleeck, won critical praise for his stylish, well-told suspense novels enlivened with a dash of wit. The writer Stephen King.

noting Mr. Ross's gift for character and witty dialogue, once called him "the Jane Austen of the political espionage story."

Other critics placed him in the hard-boiled tradition of Raymond Chandler and Dashiell Hammett.

Mr. Thomas wrote bleak tales of political corruption, and behind-the-scenes scheming. "I do use the fact that I've been in the back rooms where the deals are being cut," he once told an interviewer. "If there's a trace of cynicism in my books, it's only based on reality."

Dole was asked a question and he gave an honest answer.

Mr. Kristol said Mr. Dole's response to the uproar could prove significant. "The conventional political advice will be to back off," he said, "that he can revisit the issue after he gets the nomination. But the bolder thing for him to do is to forge ahead, make it clear that he wasn't just stumbling, and try to articulate a position that acknowledges that the human life amendment was untenable and a disservice to the pro-life cause."

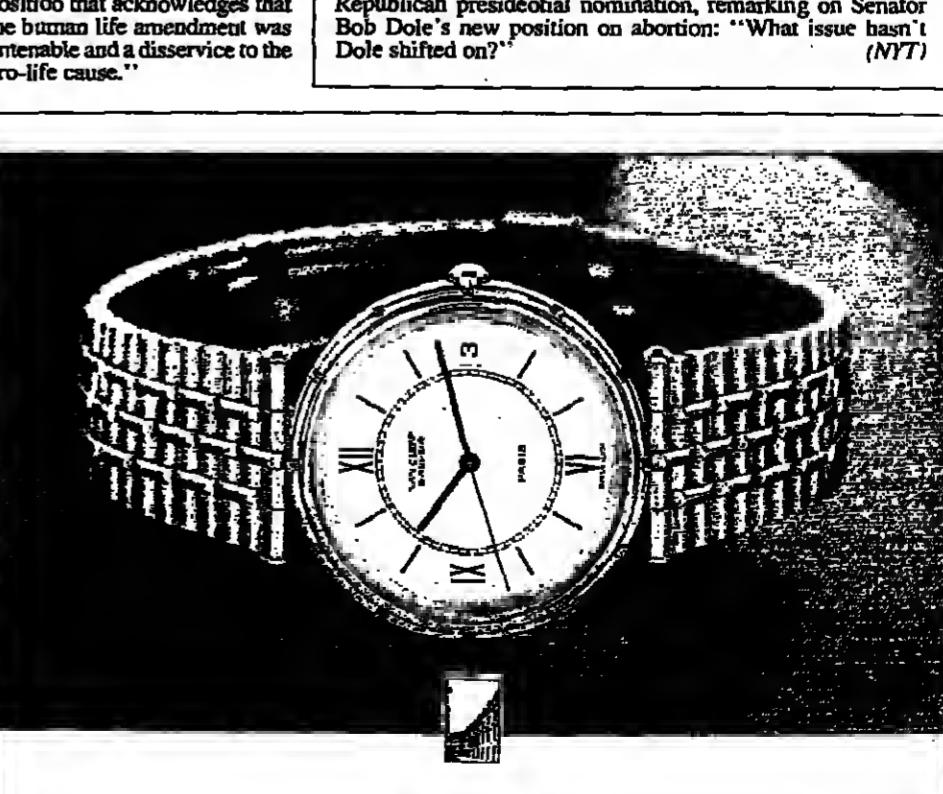
"His campaign wishes it hadn't come up now," said William Kristol, the magazine's editor. "They wanted a safe, front-runner campaign for now, they wanted him to avoid controversy, get the nomination wrapped up, and then they were going to confront the issue of abortion in the platform. But

"Briarpatch" won an Edgar Award as the best mystery novel of 1985. His most recent novel was "Ah, Treachery!" (1994).

Nina Verchikina, 85, Classic-Modern Dancer

NEW YORK — Nina Verchikina, 85, a Russian-born dancer who was one of the first classically trained ballerinas to be influenced by modern dance, died Saturday at her home in Rio de Janeiro.

Miss Verchikina was born in Moscow and brought up in Shanghai and Paris.



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EUROPE

Papandreu's Wife Warns His Doctors

She Claims Medical Control

The Associated Press
ATHENS — Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu's wife has warned his doctors not to make any medical decisions without consulting her, it was reported Tuesday.

The warning was included in a letter written by Dimitra Liani to the 15-member medical team treating the 76-year-old Mr. Papandreu. It was published in Athens newspapers.

In it she advises the doctors "to inform me and have my consent for any therapeutic intervention or the choice of any colleague you may need in the future."

The letter was sent after doctors fitted Mr. Papandreu on Sunday with a special catheter to make it easier to connect him with an artificial kidney. They apparently had not informed her about the minor surgical procedure.

Mr. Papandreu's blood has been cleaned by the machine on a daily basis since he was hospitalized on Nov. 20, suffering from pneumonia.

Mrs. Papandreu, 40, has reportedly tried to control all decisions regarding Mr. Papandreu's health and the people he sees. Except for his four children, only one of his cabinet ministers has recently met with him.

Doctors were preparing on

Tuesday to move Mr. Papandreu to a more sterile room in an effort to prevent further infection. His health worsened last week when he contracted an infection from one of the many tubes that connect him to life support machinery.

A medical bulletin issued by the Onassis hospital said the prime minister was also being treated with antibiotics to block any new infection.

"His overall condition has not shown any substantial changes," the bulletin said. "His breathing is periodically being supported by a respirator and his kidney functions by an artificial kidney."

Mrs. Papandreu's wife also reportedly told the Athens newspaper Eleftherotypia that she would not try to convince him to remain prime minister.

Education Minister George Papandreu, Mr. Papandreu's son, has he would talk to his father about the possibility of resigning as prime minister.

Under the constitution he may be replaced only if he resigns or dies.

A government spokesman, Telemachus Hybris, repeated that replacing Mr. Papandreu was not an issue and that Interior Minister Aikis Tsochadopoulos was substituting for him.

"The government is functioning," he said.



BORDEAUX PROTEST — Thousands of demonstrators took to the streets Tuesday to protest the austerity plans of Prime Minister Alain Juppé, who is also Bordeaux's mayor.

Kidnapped Swiss Is Freed After 24 Hours

The Associated Press
LUGANO, Switzerland — A billionaire businessman who is one of Switzerland's richest men was freed Tuesday, more than 24 hours after he was reported kidnapped.

Geo Mantegazza, 67, was released in the evening, the police said. They had warned earlier that his life was in danger.

In a statement, the police in Ticino Canton described Mr. Mantegazza's condition as "satisfactory."

The statement said further details of the businessman's release would be released Wednesday.

Mr. Mantegazza was overpowered and abducted from his office by assailants on Monday.

According to a report on the wealthy in Switzerland by the magazine Bilanz, he and his brother Sergio have estimated assets of 2 billion to 3 billion Swiss francs (\$1.7 billion to \$2.6 billion).

He inherited a fortune from his family and boosted his wealth in the travel business and real estate. Mr. Mantegazza lives with his second wife and a 4-year-old son in the southern lakeside city of Lugano.

Franco Ballabio, the police chief of Ti-

cino, refused to speculate on local newspaper reports that the Mafia in neighboring Italy was behind the kidnapping, but he indicated that the search had spread beyond the Swiss border, saying that the international police agency Interpol was involved in the investigation.

Mr. Mantegazza is best known in Switzerland as the former president of the successful HC Lugano ice hockey club.

He is a co-owner of the Swiss travel group Globus-Gateway Tours. His brother, Sergio, runs the group from London. He also owns several real-estate companies.

Stockholm Appoints A New Police Chief

STOCKHOLM — Sweden appointed Industry Minister Björn Heckscher as chief of police on Tuesday in a reshuffle that ended the contract of the current police chief, Björn Eriksson, almost two years ahead of schedule.

Energy Minister Jörgen Anderson will reportedly take over as industry minister. Minister of Justice Laila Freivalds said the switch in police leadership came at Mr. Eriksson's request.

Strikers Cripple Transport In Belgium

Reuters
BRUSSELS — A new wave of strikes at railroads and the national airline Sabena plunged transportation in Belgium into chaos Tuesday.

Most of Sabena's 280 flights scheduled for Tuesday were canceled. Only 30 were known to have gone ahead.

A spokesman said Sabena had canceled all of Wednesday's flights because it feared for passengers' safety during a demonstration by striking workers at Zaventem airport.

Meanwhile, train traffic in Wallonia, the southern half of Belgium, was stalled, and the strike was gradually spreading to the north.

The Eurostar high-speed trains to Paris and London were affected and many trains between Belgium and Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Germany were canceled.

Trade union officials see the strikes as part of a campaign to force the center-left government of Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene to abandon proposals for sweeping budget cuts.

The government is seeking to cut more than 110 billion Belgian francs (\$3.7 billion) from its 1996 budget and is preparing to reform Belgium's generous social security system, which has become unaffordable.

Belgium is being forced to cut its budget further to meet the European Union's Maastricht treaty criteria on entry into a future economic and monetary union.

But some analysts said the strikes would deal a serious blow to Mr. Dehaene's cabinet if the entire public sector went on strike.

Sabena's unions, which have staged two 24-hour strikes in recent weeks, called the new strike in further protest against the company's plans to cancel a number of collective wage agreements, freeze wages for three years and increase working hours at peak periods.

BRIEFLY EUROPE

German Rail Sabotage Spreads

KOBLENZ, Germany — Suspected anti-nuclear activists toppled a railroad's electrical pylon on Tuesday, delaying trains along the Rhine route in the second such attack in two days.

The saboteurs sliced through the metal pylon with a blowtorch at about 2:20 A.M., cutting power to trains, the Koblenz police said. About 10 trains were stalled for 35 minutes before power was restored. Railroad officials estimated the damage at 500,000 Deutsche marks (\$350,000).

On Monday, the police blamed militant opponents of nuclear power for damaging overhead electrical cables in five locations, delaying trains in central and southwestern Germany for hours. Weighted cables were thrown over the railway power lines, causing passing trains to rip down the lines. (AP)

Berlusconi Pushes Early Elections

ROME — Former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said Tuesday that he intended to hold talks with parties of all hues in a bid to force early elections in Italy.

"I will start consultations straight away," Mr. Berlusconi said.

Prime Minister Lamberto Dini has promised to resign after the 1996 budget is adopted, but parties allied to his government have suggested elections be delayed for six months to avoid interfering with Italy's tenure in the rotating European Union presidency. (AFP)

France to Ease Security Measures

PARIS — The French government plans to ease three-month-old anti-terrorist measures put into effect during a bombing wave that killed eight people and wounded 160.

Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debré said the measures, which have involved 32,000 police and military personnel, will remain in effect until after the New Year's holidays.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Alain Juppé said the relaxation of the measures will mean that the soldiers, who patrol major train stations, monuments, public buildings and border posts, will return to their barracks. Police unions, complaining that their members were suffering from exhaustion due to the amount of overtime they have worked, asked that the security measures be eased. (AP)

Calendar

European Union events scheduled for Wednesday:

BRUSSELS: Meeting of the European Commission.

OSTEND, Belgium: Schengen executive committee meeting.

BRUSSELS: Meeting of donor countries for the reconstruction of Bosnia, attended by the commissioner for external relations, Hans van den Broek.

BRUSSELS: The commission president, Jacques Santer, meets with the Italian foreign minister, Susanna Agnelli.

BRUSSELS: The research and education commissioner, Edith Cresson, presents the commission's "Green Book" on innovations to the press.

Sources: Agence Europe, AFP

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First Personal Communications Service inaugurated in USA

The launch of the first commercial Personal Communications Service (PCS) in the USA has thrown the spotlight onto the next important phase of wireless communications development.

Taking advantage of the new frequencies allocated by US authorities in the 1900 MHz band, American Personal Communications (APC) inaugurated, in November, a totally digital wireless communications service in the Washington-Maryland-Northern Virginia area.

Under the name of Sprint Spectrum, APC offers an all-in-one service with voice, messaging and paging services from one point at an affordable price.

As APC's primary wireless network equipment provider for the Washington-Baltimore corridor, Ericsson has supplied the network

Infrastructure for this first US PCS system. Customers of the new service can use Ericsson's ultra-small CH337 portable phone to send and receive data, fax, voice mail and short messages.

Integrating cellular and PCS
Meanwhile, in Atlanta, Georgia, Ericsson is supplying network equipment to AT&T Wireless Services, Inc. for another important PCS development. AT&T Wireless Services, formerly McCaw Cellular Communications, is testing PCS technology (based on D-AMPS) prior to building a new digital wireless system. The new system will be combined with the company's digital cellular systems to cover more than 80% of the US population.

AT&T Wireless Services's stated intent is to "integrate cellular and PCS licenses into the nation's most powerful and far-reaching wireless service." This will be possible because both the company's existing digital cellular service and the planned PCS service will use the same digital radio technology.

These two projects mirror similar developments taking place all over the world, as wireless network operators plan for large-scale service growth that will make the portable phone a truly mass market product.

One technology rules supreme
As the swing from analogue to digital wireless technology gathers momentum, it is clear that the world market is polarising around two main standards, both based on the same technology, known as TDMA. This is driven by the recognition that it is easier to provide subscribers with national and international roaming when a common radio access technology is used.

The standard in Europe and most of the Asia-Pacific region is GSM, which has been

Ericsson and Marconi partnership targets \$2 billion global transport network

In a move aimed at securing a growing share of the global market for new-generation telecommunication transport networks, Ericsson and Marconi have announced a strategic partnership to concentrate on SDH (Synchronous Digital Hierarchy) systems.

The co-operation brings together the strengths and synergies of two major players in the transport systems area, and is

expected to deliver cost and time benefits.

The move reflects the increased pace of vendor consolidation in this field.

The Ericsson/Marconi partnership includes the grant of licensing and manufacturing rights by Marconi and will be based on a mutually exclusive use of a common SDH portfolio, as well as optimal

use of distribution channels worldwide. Ericsson's market presence in more than 100 countries, combined with the proven technology of the two companies' product portfolios, are obvious synergies.

The international SDH standard defines new technologies for the digital transmission of voice, data and video traffic within telecommunications networks.

The majority of network operators are planning for the migration of their networks to SDH technology. The world market is forecast to grow from its present \$2 billion to \$5 billion towards the end of the decade.

World round-up

Australia: A new order for GSM digital cellular network equipment takes Ericsson's sales to Vodafone Australia to AUD 400 million. Partly as a result of these GSM orders since 1993, Ericsson's Australian plant has become one of the largest telecoms manufacturers in the Asia-Pacific region.

Argentina: In a contract that highlights the spread of the North American D-AMPS standard, Ericsson is to complete a nationwide D-AMPS/AMPS network in Argentina with two cellular operators — Telefónica Comunicaciones Personales and Compañía de Comunicaciones Personales del Interior. In a separate contract, the existing Movistar network in Buenos Aires is to be expanded. These orders total \$200 million.

Philippines: Ericsson has won turnkey contracts worth \$250 million to supply equipment and build the fixed local telecom network for Smart Communications Inc. and to expand Smart's existing cellular mobile network.

In another turnkey contract worth \$59 million, Ericsson will expand the fixed telecommunications network of Digital (Digital Telecommunications Philippines, Inc.) to support domestic and international telephone services.

China: With nine million lines of Ericsson's AXE system already supplied to China, a new general purchasing agreement with the Chinese Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPT) covers a further 2.8 million lines for delivery during 1995 and 1997. Nanjing Ericsson Communication Ltd. will manufacture the AXE equipment in China. A Memorandum of Understanding has also been signed with MPT covering SDH transmission technology.

A new agreement with Guangdong Post and Telecommunication Administration and Machinery Import and Export Bureau covers the supply of telecommunications energy systems for Guangdong Province and the People's Republic of China.

Three cellular network expansion projects in China have led to orders totalling \$96 million. One is for expansion of the digital GSM network in Shandong Province; the others are for analogue TACS networks in Hunan and Liaoning Provinces.

Nine-month profits up 38%

Ericsson posted a 38% rise in third-quarter profits, on sales 23% higher compared with the corresponding period of 1994. New orders were buoyant as well, up by 31%.

Pre-tax profit for the nine months ended 30 September 1995 was SEK 4,810 million (\$872 million) on sales of SEK 66,901 million (\$9,349 million).

Mobile telephony is again the star performer, with the company's Radio Communications business area posting a 60% increase in new orders and accounting for 60% of the company's total order bookings. Overall, Ericsson is the world leader in mobile telephone systems, with more than 40% of the market, in terms of subscribers.

For the new digital systems, Ericsson's position is even stronger. Almost 50% of subscribers to digital GSM networks around the world are served by Ericsson systems.

In Japan, Ericsson is a leading supplier of digital systems to the PDC standard; and in the USA, around 80% of the digital D-AMPS subscribers are served by Ericsson systems.

Commenting on the results, Ericsson CEO Dr Lars Rannqvist said: "Ericsson is now able to report continuous quarterly growth over four consecutive years. I regard this as clear evidence that we acted correctly in continuing to invest heavily in research and development in areas judged as having the best potential for the future".

The mobile office

The new Mobile Office DC12 package from Ericsson lets subscribers stay in touch wherever they travel. Instead of plugging a laptop computer into an ordinary telephone socket, users can be connected via a PCMCIA card to a digital portable phone. This gives subscribers access to electronic mail as well as database and data communications services.

The package contains everything subscribers need, including connecting cable and Windows-based mobile communications software.

It supports fax and data communications, Short Messaging Service (SMS) and Phone Manager.



From strength to strength in Japan

Worth a total of SEK 900 million, two new contracts have confirmed Ericsson's position in the fast-growing Japanese market for digital cellular telephone systems conforming to the PDC (Personal Digital Cellular) standard.

Central Japan Digital Phone has ordered switching equipment, radio base stations and associated equipment worth SEK 650 million to expand its digital network in Nagoya. Since entering service in July 1994, the network has grown by 10,000 subscribers a month.

South African breakthrough

Ericsson has signed its first general purchasing agreement with Telkom South Africa Ltd. A three-year contract to supply Mini-Link digital microwave systems to Telkom's eigenets has an estimated value of 50 million Rand.

Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson, S-126 25, Stockholm, Sweden.

Ericsson's information-on-demand database can be addressed at: www.ericsson.com

INTERNATIONAL

Crucial Countdown Begins For Peace Plan in Bosnia

Washington Post Service

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — When the United Nations hands over command of its Bosnian operation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on Wednesday, the clock will begin ticking toward a set of deadlines that must be met if the ambitious U.S.-brokered plan to bring peace to the Balkans is going to work.

UN officials and Western diplomats say that a delay of any one of a series of these deadlines could trip up Operation Joint Endeavor, hampering the most ambitious U.S. diplomatic and military initiative since President George Bush dispatched American troops to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation in 1990.

The members of the NATO implementation Force, or IFOR, including 20,000 American soldiers, will have their work cut out for them. Already bad weather has slowed their deployment. On top of that they will confront a culture that rejects urgency as a way of life. "Bosnian time," as one UN official put it, runs slower than its Western counterpart. The Serbs view deadlines as things to be defied; the two other sides, Muslims and Croats, have often treated them as hindrances to be ignored.

Partly for that reason, the deadlines are flexible. U.S. Navy Admiral Leighton Smith, who will command the operation, will have the power to lengthen them if the situation

demands it. The Bosnian Serbs are already pleading for an extension of the three-month transition period for the Serbian-held suburbs around Sarajevo, slated to be returned to the mostly-Muslim Bosnian government.

"I do not underestimate the challenge, but IFOR has been given the tools to do the job," British Army Lieutenant General Michael Walker, commander of NATO ground forces in Bosnia, said when he arrived in Sarajevo on Tuesday. "We offer the chance for something everybody wants, peace."

While much attention has been lavished on the risks inherent in the military aspects of the accord, such as a withdrawal of the warring factions and the occupation of a demilitarized zone by tens of thousands of NATO troops, many Western officials here expect real problems to arise with the mandated nationwide elections scheduled to occur between six months and nine months away.

Another headache concerns guarantees in the plan that people who were "ethnically cleansed" from their homes can actually return, a problem also linked to the elections. The elections will be the tripwire for the NATO operation to begin scaling down, one American source said. For the first three months, NATO will be building up in Bosnia, for the next three it will maintain itself at full strength, and, triggered by elections after that, it will

begin to leave, he said. Thus, if the vote does not occur, if it is delayed or collapses, the source said, U.S. disengagement in the area could be a source of friction between Washington and its European allies. President Bill Clinton has pledged to pull U.S. troops out after one year, a promise that many officials in the region believe he will have a hard time keeping.

The elections are critical to the peace deal because Bosnia's two sides will use them to form a national government designed, at least on paper, to keep the country from splitting in two.

"The problem is the elections are supposed to be free and fair," said a West European diplomat who is working on a plan for the nationwide vote. "I don't see how that can happen in so short a time."

But even before the operation gets to elections, there will be many hurdles to cross. The first will be a release of prisoners-of-war, which is supposed to occur on Jan. 19.

Prisoner exchanges have been one of the most politically explosive issues throughout the war. All sides have used them to obtain concessions.

"The prisoner release will be the first visible sign for people that the peace process is going to work," said Beat Schweizer, the head of the Sarajevo office of the International Committee of the Red Cross, which will oversee the operation.

—JOHN POMFRET



A U.S. soldier from a support unit walking past a bullet-ridden wall at the Slavonski Brod railroad station in eastern Croatia on the Bosnian border.

BALKANS: U.S. Pins Its Hopes for Peace on a Tried and True Policy: Containment

Continued from Page 1

Now, after stepping in to broker the agreement that has halted the war, the United States is sending 32,000 soldiers to the region to conduct and support a peacekeeping mission, including 20,000 to Bosnia.

While debate continues in

Washington over whether the

deployment of the force serves U.S. interests, it has dramatically raised the stakes in the Balkans. The outcome of the mission, and of the evolving U.S. security initiatives elsewhere in the region, could set the pattern for U.S. relations with both Europe and Russia. The peace mission, he argues, has replaced plans for the expansion of NATO to include former Soviet bloc countries — or initiatives to promote democracy and capitalism in Russia — as the key determinant of what U.S. relations with Europe and Russia will be like after the Cold War.

If the U.S. forces see the year-long mission through despite casualties and hardships, and the peace holds, the United States will again confirm itself as the key guarantor of security in Europe and the foremost defense partner of major European countries. That development would end a period of uncertainty after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 in which those states explored, in part through their own failed mission in Bosnia, whether they could take responsibility for keeping the peace on the continent without American help.

Success in Bosnia could also stabilize relations with Russia, a sometime supporter of the Serbs that has gingerly entered into a new kind of military partnership with NATO by agreeing to deploy forces in Bosnia under the command of a U.S. general.

The consequences of failure could be equally momentous. If war resumes in the Balkans and U.S. troops retreat in disorder, the NATO alliance — the foundation of U.S. and West European security since 1945 — could unravel amid mutual recriminations among Washington, Paris and Bonn, as it nearly did at the low point of the Bosnian war.

An alleged Russia could retreat behind a new Iron Curtain.

Some experts even fear a new, fortified East-West frontier could spring up along the old continental fault line between Roman Catholic Croatia, a traditional province of the West, and Orthodox Serbia, a former possession of the Ottoman Empire and a historical ally of Russia.

"We did not choose this as the test case" of the new security order in Europe, Mr. Holbrooke said of the Bosnian peace accord. "But as so often happens in history, the worst case is the key test. Nobody wanted it to happen, but that is the hand history has dealt."

While Moscow's influence in the region remains an implicit concern of U.S. policymakers, the main focus of the containment policy now is Belgrade. The arc of U.S. defense agreements stretches from Macedonia and Albania, on Yugoslavia's southern flank, to Croatia, Hungary and Romania to its west, north and northeast.

Albania has run headlong into the embrace of the Pentagon since 1991, when it became the last of the East European countries to abandon communism.

Now the U.S. military uses its airfields, practices on its beaches and trains in its mountains. "They act like an ally," said one U.S. officer, pointing out that Albania was not paid for playing host to the spy plane operation, "only better."

Macedonia, the smallest of the newly independent republics of Yugoslavia, has been host to a small detachment of U.S. peacekeeping troops since 1993. The troops were sent under UN auspices because of fears that the country, squeezed in among Yugoslavia, Greece, Albania and Bulgaria, might invite aggression from Serbia or elsewhere. In October, a car bomb almost killed its respected president, Kiro Gligorov. His first foreign visitor after the

attempt was U.S. Secretary of Defense William J. Perry.

U.S. defense ties with Croatia and Romania have grown despite concerns about their human rights records and commitment to political and economic reform. That is mainly because Romania, with 25 million people, is the biggest country in the region and Croatia is the only one with an army capable of challenging the Serbs.

Defense ties with Croatia, which were suspended this summer after Croatian troops expelled 150,000 Serbs in a huge offensive, have resumed even though U.S. diplomats had said that Croatia's violations of human rights during that attack would make immediate reversion impossible.

Romania, meanwhile, has signed an agreement with Bell Helicopter Textron to begin producing AH-1F Cobra attack helicopters for the Romanian armed forces from 1999 to 2005.

One way or another, the Pentagon appears likely to assist in training the mostly Muslim Bosnian army. The Clinton administration has promised congressional leaders that training and arms supplies will be provided to the Muslims, although administration officials still hope to work through third parties. West Point and the U.S. Air Force Academy are accepting applications from Bosnian officers this year.

Other defense ties are expected to increase as well.

A U.S. administration official confirmed that containment was an option but stressed that it depends on Serbian behavior.

"We've got to make the Balkans safe from Serbia," he said, quickly adding that the Balkans should also be made safe for Serbia if it meets U.S. conditions for its reintegration into the West. Among those conditions will be deep cuts in Serbia's arsenal.

BUGS: 'Engineered' Insects Are Ready to Romp

Continued from Page 1

der mites in almond and fruit orchards. In one California study, Ms. Hoy said, farmers saved \$20 million in pesticide costs by introducing the predatory mites. But repeated attempts to establish the mite in Florida have failed.

Ms. Hoy will take precautions to keep the altered organisms from escaping during their first outing. The mites will be transported to the Florida plot in sealed plastic boxes surrounded by water moats.

The scientists' laboratory coats will be soaked in alcohol before they are taken back to the lab. Sticky insect traps will be scattered throughout the high-security test plot; pesticides will be sprayed around the perimeter every two weeks, and mite-covered leaves will be destroyed in sterilization chambers after the scientists examine them.

Moreover, the mite that Ms. Hoy has genetically changed, known as the Western orchard predatory mite, cannot survive Florida's hot humid summers. Indeed, that's the problem genetic engineers would like to solve. For years, West Coast farmers have used the mites as biological controls against spider mites.

Other scientists are watching

closely to see how the government handles her request. Among them are researchers at the Maryland Biotechnology Institute in Baltimore who recently announced they had developed a promising method for generating new genes into a wide variety of insects.

"We can use genes the same way we use insecticides," said David O'Brocta, who co-directed the gene insertion work at the Maryland Institute. "Think of taking deleterious genes and spreading them through an insect population, eventually leading to the death of those insects or their progeny."

That is the strategy that Thomas Miller and John Peloquin, both entomologists, are pursuing at the University of California at Riverside. Mr. Miller and Mr. Peloquin have been inserting a lethal gene into a caterpillar called the pink bollworm. These caterpillars live in cotton bolls, causing millions of dollars in damage every year. The researchers have inserted into laboratory-reared bollworms a deadly gene that only becomes active in those insects' offspring.

Ms. Hoy admits that there is a chance that some mites will escape, but she sees no cause for alarm. "In the worst-case scenario," she said in her application to the Department of Agriculture, "a desirable natural enemy valued for its ability to control pest spider mites would be added to the fauna of Florida."

Other scientists are watching

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OPINION/LETTERS

This Way, Juppé: In U.S., The Government Strikes

By A. M. Rosenthal

NEW YORK — Americans really have to feel sorry for the French. They just don't have a clue how to run a country during a budget crisis. Over there the people, millions of them, go on strike against the government. The American way is that the government goes on strike against the people.

The American way is far better, anybody can see that. First, it takes only a handful of people, politicians in Congress and the White House, to get the job of shutting down the government done.

Second, the streets don't get all clogged and messy, so there is no garbage to clean up.

Third, not too many people get hurt to make it very risky for politicians. Tourists, who can't get into museums or national parks, should be at home anyway, watching a football game or something.

The federal employees who lose paychecks can go see the president's Christmas tree and get all snuggly at the idea that he is paying for the electricity himself.

Maybe the shutdown goes on, we will consider paying rent for his family's personal quarters. Maybe members of Congress will charge themselves for office space. Maybe they will all evict themselves if they cannot get up the cash. That would be excellent burden-sharing.

And here is the beautiful part of doing it the American way: In a relatively short time and without having to call out the cops or the garbage collectors, the government

ment strike against the people will have accomplished its purpose.

Breathes there an American with mind so dead as not to understand what is going on: shutting the government to make the other side look mean, stupid and the enemy of the people as the presidential election campaign is really getting going?

Of course not. We know the government was shut down not because of money or dead principle but, unseated but for political advantage.

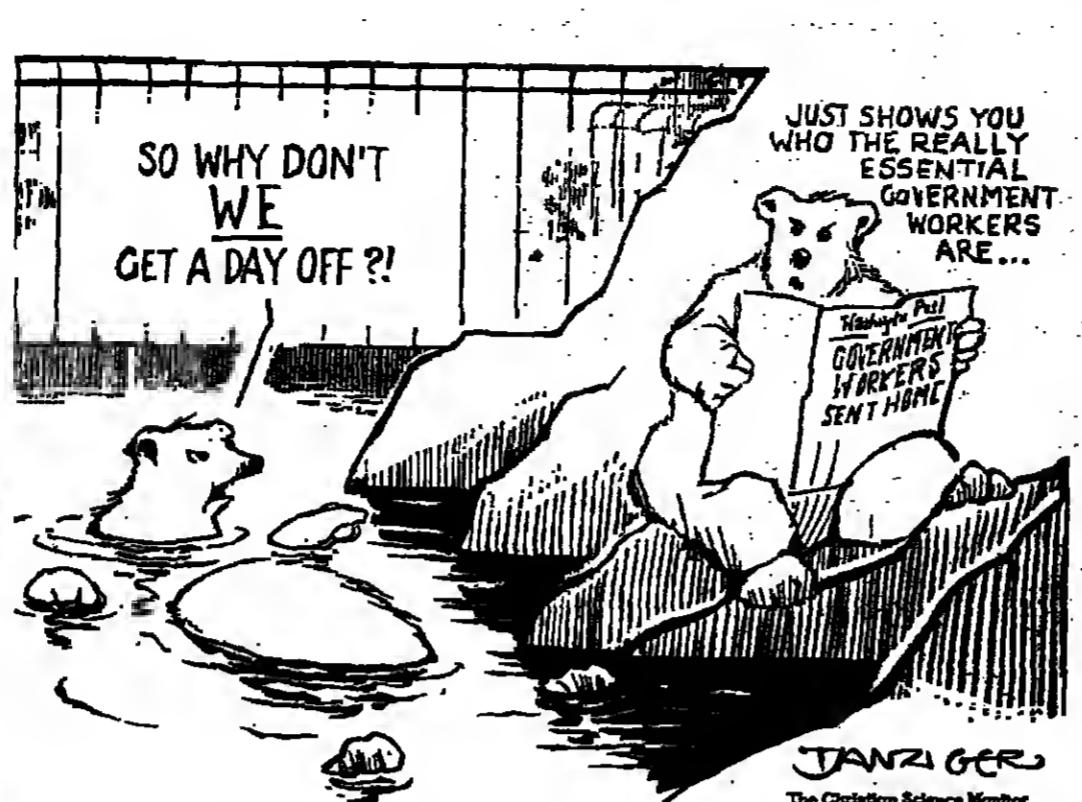
Money: There is a gap of about \$400 billion over seven years between the hardest Republican position and the official Clinton response, which is not chewing gum.

But Washington knows that the gap will narrow after the government shutdown.

As for principle, the president, turning this way and that, has wound up giving the Republicans much of what they wanted: a balanced budget with a deadline, the surrender to the states of control over welfare and other parts of the budget, tax cuts and recognition of the need for Medicare change.

Now he is left with the matter of Medicaid. If he surrenders on the need and right of poor people — just plain poor, you understand, not immigrants, welfare recipients or other such miserable specimens of humanity — he will have jettisoned not just the poor but his own political bond.

But about the shutdown, Congress and the president are not talking either bottom-line money or



In Washington, even the National Zoo is closed.

unshakable principle. There is no end of legislative devices that would allow them to do the sensible thing: arrange for funds to keep the government going while they argue over money and principle.

That approach, in case you forgot, is known as democracy, problem-solving, conciliation, common sense, judgment, words like that.

Many of them are taught, I believe, in schools that still have courses in civics, excuse the expression.

And for a couple of hundred dollars a day, the government

could hire a mediation expert to do the job, maybe one of the nonessential people who have been shut out of their federal jobs.

Now: Breathes there an American with soul so dead as not to bawl with rage against Congress and the White House for making such a clown out of the American government system?

Obviously yes, tens of millions of us.

Otherwise the fortunes that politicians spend for polls to keep their sticky fingers on our political

pulse would have told them to watch out, that Americans would turn hard against the party that squeezes the last drop of dignity out of government, and give their votes to the party that shows any sign of political adulthood.

If I were a foreign correspondent in the United States, I would write about this government's strike against its people, not as an economic story but as a kind of style piece, the latest bleeping in the growing American passion for self-mutilation.

The New York Times.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No Triumph

Regarding "Europeans and Americans Plan to Be Doing a Lot More Together" (Opinion, Dec. 13):

Of course it is to be welcomed that the Clinton administration has finally acknowledged America's unique position and attendant responsibilities. But to cite the Dayton agreement as heralding a new era of successful trans-Atlantic cooperation and policy-making is to brutalize the facts; both France and the UK are seething. For three long years, the Clinton administration distanced itself while

British and French troops risked and lost their lives.

To then jump in as "peacemakers" after the Croatian-Bosnian summer offensive had so changed the facts on the ground, and pressure from the U.S. Congress had so changed the political realities at home that it had no choice, is clearly to be seen as unprincipled opportunism, not partnership. While the diplomacy was superb, the results are shameful.

To herald Dayton — which partitioned a sovereign state, legitimized the effects of ethnic cleansing and treated acknowledged war criminals as peacemakers on an equal

moral footing with their victims — as a triumph is to evidence either an appalling historical ignorance or a breathtaking lack of shame, or both. The last time Europe witnessed such a "triumph" it was called Munich.

JOHN W. WOOD, London

The author is co-chairman of Republicans Abroad.

A Docudrama

Regarding "Twisting Historical Facts to Make Ratings History" (Opinion, Nov. 28):

In presenting examples of propagandistic "docudrama," how could William Safire overlook "All the President's Men"? He was there, wasn't he?

JOHN FIRTH, Ste. Colombe-sur-l'Her, France

Ban Land Mines

Regarding "GIs Must Tread Lightly in a Land of Lethal Mines" (Dec. 13):

After 200 UN peacekeepers have been killed or maimed by land mines in Bosnia, it beggars belief that both

the British and U.S. governments can still consider anti-personnel mines "legitimate" weapons of war.

The tragedy of land mines and their civilian cost will be seen in Bosnia now that peace is coming. Britain and the United States, which will have some of the largest contingents there, should act now to ban these weapons at the ongoing review of the Inhumane Weapons Convention, outlawing them forever.

TIM CARSTAIRS, London

The writer is coordinator of the UK Working Group on Landmines.

BOOKS

THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE HOUSE OF WINDSOR

By Donald Spoto. 474 pages. \$27.50. Simon & Schuster.

Reviewed by Carolyn See

So many books have been written about the hapless House of Windsor! So many of them have been fun to read, even though you feel slightly queasy afterward, as if you'd eaten too much grilled salmon or too many chocolate chip cookies. Books about the royal family are an odd mix of prurience and culture, a strange cross between the movie magazines of the '40s (did Glenn Ford really enjoy his love scenes with Rita Hayworth?) and *Vanity Fair* (can they really think up another way to show Demi Moore without their clothes on?).

Donald Spoto has found the perfect tone to retell these same old stories. He's gentle, mostly forgiving and delightful. After devoting just a page or two to people who've totally slipped our memory, he begins with Queen Victoria, who started out plump and just got plumper, who was crazy about Prince Albert, and who loved the marriage bed but had mixed feelings about its consequences.

She knew she had to have children but thought pregnancy was a big waste of time.

We soon see that in this family the women live long and work hard; the men fritter away their lives on idleness, chain-smoking, heavy drinking, and do young. Poor Edward VII waited and waited for Victoria to die and then had only a few years to reign as king. Spoto makes much of the fact that Edward was given nothing to do as Prince of Wales, so he was bored to distraction and fell in with bad companions. The larger truth might be that even after you become king (or queen) in England, there's still nothing to do. I once saw Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip as they made an appearance in Oxford at a Rhodes Scholars' reunion. A wall between Wadham College Garden and Rhodes House had been knocked down at great expense so Her Majesty wouldn't have to walk a block on public sidewalks. The queen and prince took a walk in front of scholars for 45 minutes. Is this a job?

The author surveys the matter of the monarchy all over again, with charity and loving attention to wacky detail. For instance, at the marriage of Princess Mary, daughter of Victoria and Edward VII for only nine years, then George V from 1910 to

Lascelles, in 1922, Spoto describes Lascelles as "a dismal bloodhound" and reminds us that "perhaps the most memorable moment of their very grand wedding and reception occurred when the nearsighted novelist E.M. Forster bowed deeply to the cake, taking it for Queen Mary." And Spoto doesn't stop with just the British royals. He states that Marie of Romania had "a predilection for leaving notes in various rooms of her palace declaring 'Marie of Romania—one of the most wonderful women in the world. A woman like that is born once in a century.'

It's a mystery, defining what it means to be "royal" in a century where, in the Western world, royalty does not rule. They're being "trained" all the time, but trained to do what? Spoto again lays it out for us: Victoria ruled forever, practically speaking; the charming Edward VII for only nine years; then George V from 1910 to

1936. George V was as crabby as his brother, George VI, with his chipper wife who drank her way through royal lunches at about 12 glasses a crack but kept smiling (and still keeps smiling) and gave birth to Elizabeth and Margaret, the dutiful queen-to-be and the rebellious hard-luck princess.

Spoto all but ignores the present generation; they seem too low for him to even bother with. Read this history again, as if for the first time. You'll be happier about your family and about your own life.

Carolyn See reviews books regularly for The Washington Post.

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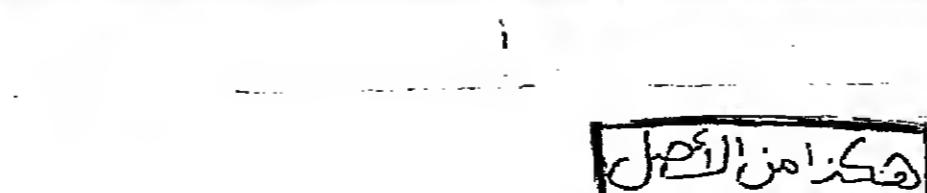
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Non-Ink-Stained Wretches Get the Blue-Collar Blues

By Richard Harwood

WASHINGTON — Journalists from 21 cities gathered in Washington in 1993 to form a labor union. The Great Depression had taken hold. Nearly 13 million people were unemployed — 38 percent of the confirmed labor force. That unemployment percentage today would mean 50 million people out of work.

You could hire a cub reporter in Wisconsin in that era for \$6 a week.

MEANWHILE

On suburban papers around the United States, a fairly common wage was \$1 a day. In the big cities, 75 percent of the reporters earned less than \$4,000 a year.

Half of the Guild members have returned to work. Others have been replaced — perhaps permanently — by new hires: "scabs" and "strike-breakers." This is possible under court rulings that deny companies the right to fire strikers but allow them to hire "permanent replacements."

In the old days if you were fired or "permanently replaced," you could walk down the street with a good chance of a job at one of the other local dailies. But no longer. There are no other dailies in 99 percent of U.S. cities. Detroit is included.

It's a different world now. I went into the business in 1947 at \$25 a week. The impossible dream of the Guild at that time was a minimum wage of \$100 a week for experienced reporters, editors and photographers. Today, entry-level wages are not mind-boggling — \$20,000 or so a year on average. But on the big papers, \$1,000 a week as a minimum for experienced people is not uncommon, thanks largely to the Guild.

Other things have changed. In years past, the Newspaper Guild, supported by its blue-collar brothers and sisters — the printing trades — could strike and shut down newspapers as a major bargaining weapon. Today, that weapon has lost much of its sting. Computers have made most of the printing trades obsolete. Reporters and editors can set type with a keyboard. Wire services and nonunion employees can fill up blank pages with news.

During a failed strike at The Washington Post 20 years ago, Katharine Graham, the paper's publisher, worked in the mail room bundling papers for distribution. In an earlier strike, I was in the management cadre of 19 newsroom people who put out the paper every day. The normal newsroom complement was about 600. Many readers apparently were unaware a strike was on. A few of them claimed the paper was getting better. They were wrong, but the presses rolled.

We are seeing this today in De-

The Washington Post.

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STAGE/ENTERTAINMENT

Nixon's Family Denounces Stone Movie as 'Character Assassination'

By Bernard Weinraub
New York Times Service

LOS ANGELES — Two days before the release of Oliver Stone's film, "Nixon," about the life and career of Richard M. Nixon, the late president's family issued an angry statement terming portions of the movie "reprehensible" and saying it was maliciously designed to "defame and degrade President and Mrs. Nixon's memory in the mind of the American public."

A statement released Monday by the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace in Yorba Linda, California, said Stone's movie was nothing less than a "character assassination" of the 37th president.

The statement, ascribed to "the Nixon

family" and the library and birthplace foundation, said the criticisms were based on a reading of the screenplay that has been published by Hyperion, which is owned by Walt Disney Co. Disney is also releasing the film.

It was the first comment made by Nixon's daughters, Tricia Nixon Cox and Julie Nixon Eisenhower, and their husbands about a film that is already generating controversy because of its depiction of the president.

Monday's statement was obviously designed to place the family on the record and end any speculation about their views.

Although Stone has said the film portrays Nixon as a tragic figure, it also presents an unsparing picture of a tormented man who enjoyed drinking and

whose relations with his wife were strained.

Moreover the film asserts that Nixon, as vice president, played a role in government efforts to assassinate Fidel Castro, the Cuban leader. Perhaps the most controversial element in the film is the depiction of Nixon as participating in the planning of an assassination attempt on Castro that unwittingly created the forces that later killed President John F. Kennedy.

In contrast to Stone's most controversial movie, "JFK," which claimed that President Lyndon B. Johnson and others were involved in the Kennedy assassination, the new film makes no such assertion about Nixon.

After the release of "JFK," neither the Johnson family nor Kennedy family had

any comment about the movie, although numerous historians, journalists and former government officials attacked Stone's view of history.

In the statement, the family said that Stone waited until the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Nixon "expressly to prevent their asserting their rights under the law."

The statement said that Stone and his collaborators, Stephen J. Rivelle, Christopher Wilkinson and Eric Hamburg, "concocted imaginary scenes of the Nixon's private life. Richard Nixon's family life as a boy and a young man and his public life that are calculated solely and maliciously to defame and degrade President and Mrs. Nixon's memories in the mind of the American public."

The statement added: "The published script also contains passages which state

erroneously and maliciously that Richard Nixon was responsible for United States government plans to assassinate Fidel Castro and which state erroneously and maliciously that he believed the apparatus he is alleged to have created for that purpose was ultimately turned against John F. Kennedy."

THE charge that Nixon "had any knowledge of, and indirect moral and operational responsibility in, the murder of the 35th president of the United States is so reprehensible that it should render wholly illegitimate any text of narrative in which it is contained," the statement said.

The statement itself referred to the Nixon family, but Kevin Cartwright, a spokesman at the Nixon foundation, said

this meant Mrs. Cox and her husband, Edward, and Mrs. Eisenhower and her husband, David.

Cartwright said Nixon's daughters had not seen the film but were basing their criticisms on a reading of the published script.

Responding with a statement of his own, Stone said: "While I understand the distress that any effort to examine the life of Richard Nixon might create for his family, our purpose in making the film, 'Nixon,' was neither malicious nor defamatory."

The aim of the film, he said, was to attempt "a fuller understanding of the life and career of Richard Nixon — the good and the bad, the triumphs and the tragedies, and the legacy he left his nation and the world."

Twilight of the Gods and Mankind

LONDON THEATER

By Paul Moor
International Herald Tribune

BERLIN — The Wagnerian Holy of Holies in Bayreuth and the German State Opera here have traditionally enjoyed a close association. In 1988 the annual Bayreuth Festival offered a new production of Wagner's massive tetralogy, "The Ring," conducted by Daniel Barenboim and staged by Harry Kupfer from Berlin's Komische Oper. Barenboim, meanwhile head of the German State Opera, and Kupfer have now, with "Götterdämmerung," almost completed this house's first new "Ring" in almost 40 years.

Both the Rhine and the forest Wagner designated have disappeared; the plethora of German operatic productions leaves stage directors hard put to avoid retracing paths already overexplored. Kupfer and his designer, Hans Schavermoc, have chosen to evoke psychological associations relating the twilight of the Germanic gods to our own world and era.

In the distance one sees the unmistakable skyscrapers of nighttime Manhattan. The fate-weaving Norns uncertainly finger the insulation of what look like electric cables. Hagen's watchtower features three imposing satellite antennas. The Rhine seems paved over, leaving Wagner's Rhine maidens, almost resembling floozies, to peek out of air shaft hatches.

Siegfried Jerusalem (Siegfried) got a shouting ovation at the opening perfor-

mance, Deborah Polaski (Brünnhilde), a shouting, stomping ovation — a rare demonstration in Germany. For Barenboim, the customary few top-balcony boos merely invigorated the dominant bravos, and he remained long onstage, grinning and impishly wagging his fingers in salute to his adversaries up in the cheapest seats.

John Tomlinson (Hagen), Eike-Wilm Schulze (Günther), Ginter von Kannen (Alberich), Ulla Gustafsson (Gutrune), and Rosemarie Lang (Waltraute) all delivered top-caliber performances. A fortuitous matter of stature enhances the relationship between Brünnhilde and the weakling Günther. Strapping Polaski not only literally looks down on him, but at one moment she plants her right palm across his face and gives him a shove that sends him reeling.

The international ensembles traditionally embellishing Germany's opera houses face a grim new problem. A 1996 decree will hike foreign guests' German income tax from 15 percent to as much as 53 percent, and opera directors have braced themselves for an inundation of the "sudden indiscretions" legally permitting such artists to escape extant contractual obligations.

Barenboim and Kupfer will complete their Berlin "Ring" with "Das Rheingold," when the cycle gets its first integral performance between March 31 and April 8, with a box-office top of about \$343 — not per cycle but per opera — candidly aimed not at Berliners but at well-heeled tourists.

'La Bohème' for the Holidays

By David Stevens
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — What better choice for the Paris Opéra's year-end entertainment than Puccini's "La Bohème"? It takes place in Paris and (for the first two acts) on Christmas Eve.

And it is almost the centenary of the work's first performance, Feb. 1, 1896, in Turin, under the direction of the young Arturo Toscanini.

"La Bohème" is so indestructible and so seemingly natural that it is easy to overlook the genius of Puccini's melodic expressiveness applied to a conversational text that goes by so quickly that many of the best moments become apparent only on repeated hearings.

The first of the two casts that will be alternating through Jan. 23 is close to ideal, with Leontina Vaduva and Roberto Alagna as Mimi and Rodolfo of surpassing lyric splendor and youthful spontaneity. James Conlon, the house's designated chief conductor, made an auspicious first appearance in the Bastille pit, firmly in control of a score that is, after all, dense in musical events.

Jonathan Miller's production, which the Bastille is sharing with the Teatro Comunale of Florence, moves the action up to the 1930s, made clear by the Jean

Harlow movie poster on the wall. Dame Ferretti's sets and Gabriella Pescucci's costumes fit in with the Front Populaire atmosphere, but are nowhere near shabby enough to be convincing representations of bohemian poverty.

The shift in time inevitably creates some anomalies. The Act 3 Barricade d'Enfer — one of Paris's toll gates — belongs to the 19th century, not the 20th, and the Café Momus is too much of a glitz establishment to be a plausible hangout for the student crowd.

Colline's touching farewell aria to the beloved overcoat he is about to hock would be far more believable if the article of clothing in question did not look so ordinary.

BUT Miller fills the available space with convincingly natural action, whether horseplay or domestic tragedy. Vaduva and Alagna are partnered by a first-class and appropriately youthful cast. Gwynne Geyer is a spirited, bright-voiced Musetta, and Jean-Luc Chaignaud (Marcello), Frank Leguinezel (Schamard) and Kristina Sigmundsson (Colline) round out a fine bohemian quartet.

The virtue of strong casting in the character parts is amply demonstrated by having (in both casts) the veterans Jules Bastin as the landlord Benoit and Carlos Feller as Alcindoro, Musetta's gullible

squire. In the right hands these are no minor roles.

• The Kronos Quartet is composed of the classic combination of string instruments, but that is one of the few traditional things about this remarkable ensemble, which plays mainly works written for it, always with the collective intensity common to all great quartets and usually with a theatricality that is entirely uncommon in the genre.

The theater was built into the major work on the program of the quartet's most recent passage at the Théâtre de la Ville, "Ghost Opera," by Tan Dun, a 38-year-old New York-based Chinese composer. It calls not only for the sounds of the violins, viola and cello — joined by that of the pipa, a Chinese lute, played with virtuoso elan by Wu Man — but various vocal emissions, the sounds of stone, paper, water and metal, plus a great deal of moving around.

This enchanting piece is rooted in Chinese peasant culture, but it borrows from Asian shadow theater, Tibetan music, Shakespeare (snatches of "The Taming of the Shrew") and Bach (phrases from a prelude of the "Well-Tempered Clavier") all within a highly organized framework. There was more than a hint of theater, too, in the ingenious rhythms of four selections from "John's Book of Alleged Dances," for string quartet and synthesizer, by John Adams.

• The Kronos Quartet's 1995 tour of the United States will include a stop in Paris on June 11.



Adrian Scarborough and Simon Russell Beale in 'Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead' at the National. Robert Workman

'Company': The Star Is New York

By Sheridan Morley
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — In comes Stephen Sondheim's 1970 musical arrives at the Warehouse looking as strong as ever, all the better in fact (like so many of his shows) for being given the small-stage studio treatment rather than the original glitz. This is the high-rise Manhattan apartment revue about the little things you do together, children you destroy together, people you annoy together. It's the one about the ladies who lunch, and the air hostess not going to Barcelona, the one that defined for the very first time what we really mean by a Sondheim show: acid satire, heart-stopping acknowledgments of unrequited love, and the realization that not only is every man an island but most of them are under invasion.

The star here is New York itself, where another hundred people just got off the train and where you're always sorry/grateful about people who will marry you a little. But a quarter of a century down the line, "Company" has acquired a curious kind of pre-AIDS innocence. It is still, in its own quirky way, a show about safe sex and unsafe relationships. The fears are of marriage or loneliness, not of sudden death or permanent loss, and Sam Mendes, the director, has wonderfully understood that the strengths of "Company" are in all of the company. This is a team effort in which not even Sheila Gisb in the old Stretch showstopper gets star billing. A cast of 14 all get their moments.

Adrian Lester has the uneasy task of holding these short stories together with nothing more than his own indecision about whether or not to get married, but in his curtain-call plea for someone to make him alive, run his sleep, force him to care, vary his days, is one of the great anthems to urban unrest.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead" made Tom Stoppard's name at the Edinburgh Festival and then the National Theatre at the Old Vic in 1967, but is only now getting its first National revival in a strong new staging by Matthew Francis. The idea of "Hamlet" through the eyes of two of its least substantial characters was not a new one; W.S. Gilbert had tried it back in the 1880s, though what made it

work for the first time here was Stoppard's brilliant realization that they could stand for all of us, and for the absolute certainty of confusion. His Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are a deeply endearing couple; tetchy, certainly, bewildered by a universe in whose arrangements they have been allowed no part, only gradually aware that every exit is really just an entrance somewhere else and that actors are the very opposites of what they are.

"R&G" is a double act with Simon Russell Beale as Hardy to the Laurel of Adrian Scarborough, desperately trying to make sense of Elsinore in crisis. The brilliance is all in the conjuring, from the flipped come at the outset through the appalled realization of eternity ("Where's it going to end?") to a "Pirates of Penzance" finale that Shakespeare unaccountably forgot to write. This way, rather than in the Bard's two throwaway lines, we finally get to understand what happened to two of his most forgettable and forgotten characters and their demon king, brilliantly hammered by Alan Howard.

And completing a hugely welcome Christmas box of major revivals from the 1970s, Peter Nichols' "Private on Parade" is back at Greenwich. This was about the Combined Services Entertainment unit (one that in real life included Nichols himself, Stanley Baxter and Kenneth Williams) dispatched to the Far East in the aftermath of World War II to continue the fight against the Malaysian terrorists with

songs, sketches and a few jokes.

A script that would now have

entire armies of the politically correct bombing it superbly captures a mix of gay panic, showbiz courage and overseas bloody-mindedness as Nichols explores the lives and adventures of this sublimely nucky troupe of troopers determined that the Malaysian jungle is really no different from a bad week on Blackpool pier, just wetter. Tony Slattery as the camp, in more ways than one, commander ("You disobey a commanding officer and I'll scream the place down") lacks the brilliance of Dennis Quile in his original parodies of Vera Lynn, Noel Coward and Marlene Dietrich, but Paul Clayton's production borrows a trick or two from "Pacific Overtures," so that our final image of Singapore is now the world of Nick Leeson's peasant bankers, triumphantly re-taking territory for which vaudeville troupers once went out to die.

Time and again Nichols establishes his greasepaint references: These entertainers literally die the death in a theater of war, and those that don't have the sexuality and their social beliefs seriously challenged by Nichols le Prevost's brilliantly inane Major, urging them on to fight for the vicars and croquet lawns that make up the only England he has ever known. This "Parade" deserves to go on forever, even in productions that miss some of the subtleties of Michael Blakemore's original staging.

• The musical step of giving

the musical step of giving

Thursday

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EUROPE

Lights Off at AEG

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
FRANKFURT — Daimler-Benz AG's AEG unit said on Tuesday that it planned to dispose of its two remaining directly held divisions, essentially ending its 112-year existence as an independent company.

AEG said it would sell its power distribution unit to GEC Alsthom NV and transfer its automation and plant technology units to a joint venture controlled by Alcatel Alsthom.

The company did not release a sale price or other financial details about the agreements, which cover 3.5 billion Deutsche marks (\$2.45 billion) worth of AEG's total annual sales of 10 billion DM.

"The sale of the two AEG divisions is another important step in focusing the Daimler-

Benz portfolio in the business fields that are central to the future of the concern," Daimler Chief Executive Jürgen Schrenk said.

The agreements, are to take effect on Jan. 1, leaving AEG without much of a function. "The headquarters in Frankfurt won't remain," said Christoph Peetz, a spokesman for AEG.

No decisions have been made, however, about what to do with the publicly traded corporate shell, AEG AG, or its remaining four units, which are already legally independent entities, Mr. Peetz said.

Daimler, which has struggled to return AEG to profitability since buying it in the 1980s, owns 84 percent of the unit's shares.

Under the agreements, GEC Alsthom will take over the power distribution unit, which has sales of 2 billion DM. GEC Alsthom is a joint venture between General Electric Co. of Britain and France's Alcatel Alsthom, of France.

GEC Alsthom said the acquisition was a "strategic" decision that will double its sales force.

RUSSELSHIEIM, Germany — Adam Opel AG said Tuesday it had given up trying to prevent former employees from working at its rival Volkswagen AG, even though its espionage case against VW is continuing.

"Considering the time that has passed since the people moved to Wolfsburg, Opel's legal action couldn't have fulfilled its original purpose of limiting damages," Opel said. VW's headquarters are in Wolfsburg.

Opel, the German unit of General Motors Corp., charged VW with industrial espionage after José Ignacio López de Arriortua, GM's former purchasing chief, left to join Volkswagen in 1993, taking seven other Opel employees with him.

German prosecutors plan to decide in January or February whether to file any criminal charges in the case.

Since May 1993, prosecutors have been considering a request from Opel to charge Mr. López with stealing corporate secrets and with breach of trust. Volkswagen and Mr. López have denied any wrongdoing.

The last court action in the case came in September, when a German district court rejected a plea from Opel that would have prevented Mr. López from working at Volkswagen.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Running Out of Steam?

OECD Lowers European Growth Outlook

By Carl Gewirtz
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — The already-slowed growth outlook for two of Europe's economic engines were further lowered Tuesday, while the prospects in North America and Japan were revised slightly upward.

In its semiannual Economic Outlook, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development revised its predictions downward for Germany and France, based on data received since the report was prepared in early November.

Kunihiro Shigehara, chief economist, said he expected German growth this year and next year to be a quarter percentage point lower than the 2.1 and 2.4 percent published. Growth is expected to recover to 2.7 percent in 1997.

But he was more circumspect about France, which is seen coming in a quarter-point below the 2.7 percent forecast in the report. He refused to speculate about next year, saying "it's hard to say" what effect the three-week strike of public service workers will have on activity. He said that such stoppages were often followed by a catch-up and that recent official cuts in German and French interest rates, including declines in long-term market rates, should also help improve the outlook.

The OECD forecast is for Japan to grow 2 percent next year, up from 1.7 percent forecast last month, and 2.7 percent in 1997. A weaker year would push those numbers to 2.8 percent next year and 4.2 percent the following year.

The benefit to the United States would be to ensure that inflation pressures did not emerge. U.S. growth next year is projected at 2.7 percent, up from 2.5 percent forecast a month ago, and at 2.8 percent in 1997.

■ France Cuts Its Growth Outlook

French GDP is expected to grow at an annualized rate of around 1.5 percent in the first half of 1996, the statistics office INSEE said. AFX News reported.

In its latest report on the French economy, INSEE said GDP was now expected to grow 2.6 percent in 1995, down from 2.9 percent in the previous survey, which was in October.

The government lowered its forecast for 1995 growth to 2.5 percent to 2.75 percent from 2.9 percent on Dec. 6. It is looking for 1996 growth of 2.8 percent, but many economists expect this figure to be revised downward.

The key to growth was through lower deficits, which assure investors and open the way for declines in real interest rates through a reduction in the risk premiums now built into credit-market prices, he said.

The OECD also said that a strengthened dollar would be helpful not only for Europe and Japan, but also for the United States.

A rise of the dollar along with a reduction in the Deutsche mark would relieve foreign-exchange market tensions within Europe and create scope for the interest rate premiums in other European markets to fall relative to Germany.

Although no particular exchange rate was cited for the dollar against the mark, the report noted that an appreciation of the dollar to 115 yen from the just over 100 yen would have a dramatic effect on improving growth prospects in Japan.

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Polygram Shares Slide On Profit Warning

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

AMSTERDAM — PolyGram NV shares fell 9 percent after the entertainment company said its 1995 net profit would be little changed, after five years of double-digit growth, because of problems in its music and film businesses.

PolyGram, with a stable of artists including Sting, U2 and Janet Jackson, said it did not have enough hits on the pop music charts during the usually strong second half.

Analysts, meanwhile, said they expected the company's film business to continue losing money.

"Hit albums and movies are not something you can produce like Coca-Cola bottles," said Marc Langevin, an analyst at Kempen & Co.

PolyGram, which is 75 percent owned by Philips Electronics NV, had hit albums last year from Boyz II Men, Bon Jovi and Sting, which sold more than 8 million copies each. The company also took in \$250 million from the popular film "Four Weddings and a Funeral."

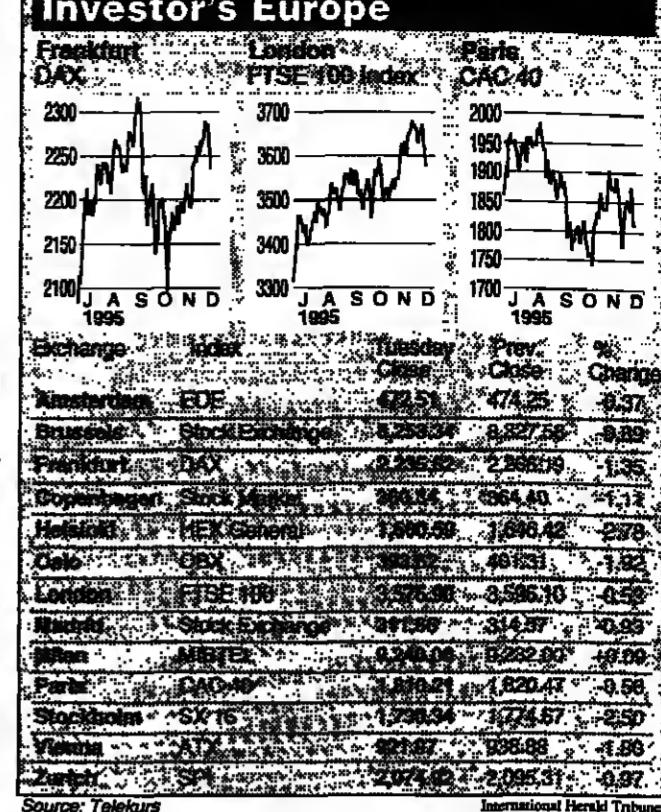
Britain awarded a seven-year franchise to operate South West Trains, one of 25 lines the government intends to hand over to private operators, to Stagecoach Holdings PLC.

Coats Viyella PLC predicted its earnings this year would be slightly below 1994 levels because an unusually warm and long summer in Britain had depressed sales.

Hamburg's port traffic is expected to reach 72.5 million metric tons for the year, up 6 percent from 1994.

Finland's central bank lowered its tender rate, the key tool of monetary policy, to 4.25 percent from 4.75 percent. The bank also predicted that inflation would hold below 2.0 percent over the next two years.

Investor's Europe



Source: Telekurs

International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

• Schindler Holding AG will raise its stake in a joint venture, China Schindler Elevator Co., to 60.3 percent from 15 percent with a capital increase of 90 million Swiss francs (\$78 million).

• BTR PLC will sell its Dunlop Slazenger sporting-goods unit to Cinven, a London-based venture capital company, for more than \$300 million (\$462 million).

• Britain awarded a seven-year franchise to operate South West Trains, one of 25 lines the government intends to hand over to private operators, to Stagecoach Holdings PLC.

• Coats Viyella PLC predicted its earnings this year would be slightly below 1994 levels because an unusually warm and long summer in Britain had depressed sales.

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Hungary Privatizes Bank

Bloomberg Business News

BUDAPEST — General Electric Capital Services and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development said Tuesday that they had bought a combined 60 percent stake in Budapest Bank from the Hungarian government for about \$87 million.

GE Capital, the investment arm of General Electric Co., acquired 27.5 percent of the bank and the EBRD bought

32.5 percent, the parties said. The purchase is the first transaction in Hungary in which an outright majority of shares in a state-owned bank has been sold to investors.

Budapest Bank, with assets of more than 215 billion forints (\$1.54 billion) and 74 branches, is one of Hungary's largest commercial banks.

The bank reported a pretax profit last year of 2.51 billion forints.

Kvaerner's Plan: Not to Hurry

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

OSLO — Kvaerner A/S said Tuesday it might sell its stake in AMEC PCL after its hostile bid for the British construction concern failed but indicated it probably would not make an immediate move.

Kvaerner had accumulated only 36 percent of AMEC's stock as of Monday's deadline, well short of the 90 percent that the company had hoped would accept its offer of £1 a share, or \$260 million (\$354 million).

"We do not feel pressed for time," Mr. Tonseth said. "If AMEC shareholders are right in that the stock is worth more than 100 pence per share, then this will not be a loss for Kvaerner."

The company bought 26.1 percent of AMEC's shares at that price but won the support of holders of only a further 10.4 percent for its offer.

(AP, AFX, Reuters)

Mr. Tonseth said, however, that the stake in AMEC could help Kvaerner's finances in the short run. He told another interviewer the company would "take its time" over its next move.

He did not rule out a renewed offer for control of AMEC, but under British takeover rules it would have to wait 12 months before bidding again unless it won the consent of Britain's takeover panel or a rival bidder emerged.

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(AP, AFX, Reuters)

U.S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Indexes

Most Actives

NYSE

High Low Last Chg. %Chg.

Vol. %Vol. %Vol. %Vol.

Market

Standard & Poor's

High Low Last Chg. %Chg.

Vol. %Vol. %Vol.

Market

Nasdaq

High Low Last Chg. %Chg.

Vol. %Vol. %Vol.

Market

AMEX

High Low Last Chg. %Chg.

Vol. %Vol. %Vol.

Market

U.S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Trading Activity

NYSE

High Low Last Chg. %Chg.

Vol. %Vol. %Vol.

Market

AMEX

High Low Last Chg. %Chg.

Vol. %Vol. %Vol.

Market

Initial

High Low Last Chg. %Chg.

Vol. %Vol. %Vol.

Market

Dividends

Per Amt Rec Pay Company

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

REVERSE STOCK SPLIT

Equities Inc 3 for 1 reverse split.

EMI 2 for 1 split; payable date

Unisys 2 for 1 split.

IBM 1 for 1 split; effective date 12

WORLD ROUNDUP



Shane Lee of Australia appealing for the wicket of Sherwin Williams.

West Indies Loses

CRICKET Australia dealt a further blow to West Indies' morale Tuesday by inflicting a third successive defeat on the Caribbean team in the World Series limited-overs competition. Australia won an enthralling match by 24 runs despite a vastly improved performance by the tourists in cold, blustery conditions at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. (Reuters)

Tarango Says He Is Sorry

TENNIS Jeff Tarango has apologized for an outburst at Wimbledon and had his fine reduced. Tarango, an American, was originally fined \$43,756 and suspended from Wimbledon next year and one other grand slam tournament for outspoken remarks at a news conference after storming off the court and defaulting his third-round singles match against Alexander Mronz of Germany last June. (Reuters)

QB Admits to Cheating

FOOTBALL Derek Canine, the starting quarterback for Southern Methodist University, has withdrawn from school after admitting to be used a term paper written by his brother. The Dallas Morning News newspaper said Canine, a freshman, is seeking permission to transfer to another school. Tom Rossley, the SMU coach, said he probably would allow Canine to transfer to a school not on SMU's schedule. (AP)

Gaetti Joins Cardinals

BASEBALL Gary Gaetti, the 37-year-old third baseman, agreed to a \$2 million, one-year contract with the St. Louis Cardinals, the team he rooted for when he was growing up. Three other free agents switched teams Monday: Bob Tewksbury was guaranteed \$1,625,000 for 1996 by the San Diego Padres; Roger McDowell agreed to a \$750,000, one-year contract with the Baltimore Orioles; and the catcher Jeff Reed agreed to a \$425,000, one-year contract with the Colorado Rockies. (AP)

Sella Ends Test Career

RUGBY UNION Philippe Sella, who holds a world record 111 international caps, announced his retirement Tuesday from international rugby. His last international was in France's victory over England for third place in the World Cup in June. (AFP)

Behind the Scenes in FIFA, the Soccer Boots Fly

International Herald Tribune

THE SEASON of goodwill might bypass FIFA House, the home of soccer's governing body, this year. Soccer bursts with commercial propositions, its coffers and cups overflow with bids that convert millions to billions.

Yet the counting house in Zurich is beset by an old man's meanness of spirit. These are not Dickensian times, and Joao Havelange, FIFA's old president, is no Scrooge. Far from it, those who obeyed always found him most generous with the game's profits.

However, the diligent workers who survived the president's staff purge last year know that when the aging autocrat boasts of "fighting to my death," he may not discriminate between his own end and FIFA's.

Havelange is on the verge of 80. He has ruled FIFA for 21 years and wants a further four-year term from the summer of 1998.

"I'll never stop," he declared in Paris last week. "Retirement is the worst thing, and fighting is my reason for living."

As he speaks, he loses votes, loses face, loses friends for the sport. Lemnart Johansson, the young 16-year-old European heavyweight who stands against Havelange for the next presidency, gets bolder and bolder in opposition. "He will have to wait," scoffs Havelange.

"My position at the head of FIFA is to make sure the ball rolls in the right direction," he said. "I have a mandate until 1998 and I intend fulfilling it. I always go by FIFA rules and Mr. Johansson should respect FIFA."

Respect should be mutual. UEFA, of which Johansson is president, generates 85 percent of soccer's global wealth. Johansson has won Africa, part of Havelange's original power base, to his cause. Asia is split, though Chung Mong-Joon, the South Korean who took Asia's seat among FIFA executive vice presidents two years ago, endorses Johansson.

Chung was one of those Havelange attempted to "sort out" at last week's Executive Committee meeting in Paris. "The president was in a state of heightened anger," says a witness who, in the time-honored fashion, demands anonymity.

"He was pounding the table, demanding to know what Chung meant by remarks in a speech he had made."

It must have cut quite a sight, this towering man from Brazil and the Korean, who is young enough to be Havelange's grandson and lean enough to be a martial

arts exponent. Chung told Havelange: "FIFA can be run by collective wisdom of its members and more transparency in administration would benefit FIFA."

Silence. Seated at the table were Johansson and Issa Hayatou, president of African Confederation, whose joint letter to Havelange last May had challenged the president to bring transparency and accountability to the TV contracts that seemed to be signed without consultation of the executive committee.

Indeed, Chung's offending speech had spelled it out: "I have been disappointed to discover that several members of the Executive Committee have never even seen a FIFA television contract, let alone been involved in the process."

A European committee member asked who has the authority to conclude TV contracts. Havelange reported: "By tradition, the president and general secretary concluded such contracts, and then let the executive committee know—what else is needed? It is sufficient."

The meeting became most fractious over Havelange's visit in November to Nigeria and his promise to grant that country the 1997 World Youth Cham-

ionship already pledged to Malaysia. Later, a FIFA spokesman said at a press conference that Havelange had written to Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah president of the Asian Confederation and the Malaysian Football Association, asking Malaysia to consider giving up the tournament. Malaysia replied that it had considered the matter carefully but because of the investment already made it could not step aside.

The press statement made no mention of a vote by the executive committee that vetoed the idea of robbing Malaysia to pay back Nigeria, which Havelange lost. This could be the first time he had ever lost in committee.

Further trouble is brewing. One of those most aggrieved over the executions in Nigeria is Nelson Mandela, yet Havelange, trying to win back African support, took it upon himself to declare that South Africa would be his choice for the 2006 World Cup.

Perhaps he doesn't hear the disquiet abroad over his unpresidential favoritism for Japan over South Korea as World Cup host for 2002? For the moment, Havelange is becalmed. Each December, he revisits his family roots in Belgium and is said to be a benevolent host. In Zurich the image isn't quite the same, but no one expects such a man to go quietly.

Rob Hughes is on the staff of *The Times*.

It Was Close, but Grizzlies End Up Losing — Again

The Associated Press

The Sacramento Kings are off to the franchise's best start in 30 years, and the Vancouver Grizzlies have lost 21 of 22 games, so a game between the two should not have been close.

With 30 seconds remaining, however, the expansion Grizzlies were within four

points of the Kings, who pulled away for a 92-85 victory Monday night.

"It wasn't so much a case of us being flat; it was because of what they were doing," the Kings' guard Mitch Richmond said of the pesky Grizzlies.

"We kind of played their game," said Richmond, who scored 20 points. "They did a good job slowing down the ball. We knew they'd come in and play hard. We played at their pace."

The Kings made 47.9 percent of their shots, limited Vancouver to 36 points in the middle two quarters and got some strong play off the bench.

With the starting forward Walt Williams sidelined following surgery to repair a broken nose and the reserve forward Michael Smith out with a sprained ankle after 10 minutes of play, the Kings needed some help up front.

Lionel Simmons started for Williams and had 10 points and eight rebounds; reserve Tyrone Corbin scored nine points, and Duane Causwell had eight rebounds and four blocks.

"We didn't play as well as we wanted, but we came out with a win, and that's the bottom line," Coach Garry St. Jean said after the Kings improved to 15-7. "We had some guys banged up and under the weather."

The Grizzlies connected on 46.2 percent of their shots, but 25 turnovers proved costly. The rookie center Bryant Reeves continued to make strides with 23 points on 9-for-12 shooting.

"Everything is starting to fall in place for me," said Reeves, who at 7 feet and 295 pounds (2.1 meters, 133 kilograms), is averaging 14.2 points and 7.9 rebounds in 10 games as a starter following the trade of Benoit Benjamin.

"I'm feeling more and more comfortable on the floor all the time," he added. "I'm starting to make big steps in my progress. It's all a learning process."

The Kings' forward Brian Grant, who

gave Sacramento the lead for good with nine third-period points, finished with 22 points. Grant said he certainly was aware of Reeves' presence.

"Reeves is better than most people think," Grant said. "He's so big, he gets his position underneath, and he also passes well and has a soft touch."

After the Kings opened a 12-point lead five minutes into the final quarter, Grizzlies guard Eric Murdock scored six points in a 15-6 run that cut the Sacramento lead to 82-79 with 3:04 to go.

Bulls 122, Celtics 114 Scottie Pippen and Michael Jordan scored 37 points each, and visiting Chicago pulled away in the fourth quarter.

After trailing 80-71 with 4:29 left in the third quarter, the Bulls outscored the Celtics 43-18. Pippen had 15 points in the surge and Jordan added nine.

Pippen just missed a triple-double, getting 12 assists and nine rebounds, while Jordan had six rebounds, five steals and three assists.

Dennis Rodman had 17 rebounds, the fifth time in seven games he got that many, as the Bulls improved to 20-2—the best record in the National Basketball Association.

The Celtics' three-game winning streak ended as they lost for only the second time in eight games. They were led by Dino Radja with 23 points, and Dana Barros and Todd Day with 21 each.

Jazz 110, Nets 103 Howard Eisley and Karl Malone combined on a four-point play to spark a game-breaking 16-3 spurt to close out the third quarter for visiting Utah.

Malone had 24 points and 15 rebounds, and Jeff Hornacek, a backup guard, added 24 points as the Jazz beat the Nets for the second time this season and the 14th time in 16 meetings.

Kenny Anderson had 21 points and 10 assists for New Jersey, which lost its third straight, and second in a row at home after opening the season at the Meadowlands with seven straight victories. Armon Gilliam added 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Nets, who made just 10 second-half shots.

The Nets led 72-71 after a dunk by Tim Perry with four minutes left in the third quarter. Antoine Carr then scored underneath, in the shadow of Shawn Bradley, and Malone hit one of two free throws for a 74-72 edge.

"You can see them feed off the fans and feed off each other," the Caps' defenseman Sylvain Cote said. "We didn't play badly, they just played better."

Messier had two goals and his 90th career assist, tying him for seventh on the all-time list. Pat Verbeek scored the Rangers' other goal.

Mike Richter stopped 30 shots for his 13th

Vantage Point / Rob Hughes

arts exponent. Chung told Havelange: "FIFA can be run by collective wisdom of its members and more transparency in administration would benefit FIFA."

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Georgia Tech Is Ambushed By an Upstart

The Associated Press

It's post-exam and pre-Christmas time in college basketball. That means some easy home matchups for the better teams as they shake out the study-hall cobwebs and get ready to head home for the holidays.

Then a school like Mount St. Mary's comes along and throws a wrench in the plans.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

plans. The fourth-smallest school in Division I, with only 1,400 students, beat No. 21 Georgia Tech, 71-69, Monday night.

"I can't remember a bigger win," the Mountaineers' coach, Jim Phelan, said after improving his record in 42 years at the school to 741-394. "I think we caught them perhaps in between good, win and tough games."

The Yellow Jackets (6-4) were coming off a victory Saturday over then-No. 20 Louisville and their next game is against No. 2 Massachusetts on Friday.

"These things happen in college basketball all the time," Georgia Tech's coach, Bobby Cremins, said. "It really, really hurts. It hurts a lot, but we've got to move forward and worry about the next game."

Jeff Balistre's only basket of the game was a layup at the final buzzer after an inbounds pass with 7 seconds to play. That gave the Mountaineers (4-2) of the Northeast Conference the victory over a team from the Atlantic Coast Conference.

"Biggest shot of my life?" Sure, said Balistre, who missed four other shots and was averaging 7.6 points. "I was just thinking point-7 seconds, I've got to get it up there quick."

Chris McGuffie, a 5-foot-9-inch (1.75-meter) senior guard, had 37 points for the Mountaineers, including an eight-for-16 performance from three-point range.

"That young man played a great game. What did he have? 50? He was sensational," Cremins said of McGuffie.

LEARNER DUNKER: Bryant Reeves slamming over Kings' Michael Smith.

Photo by Mark J. Terrill/AP Wirephoto

Photo

OBSERVER

The Military's Role

By Russell Baker

NEW YORK — Is anybody else puzzled about the Army and Navy these days? What in the world are these heavily armed and richly financed people supposed to do anymore? Congress obviously doesn't want them placed in harm's way. That's why President Clinton has just had a tough time getting the flimsiest Republican support for putting Army units into the Balkans.

Congress's attitude seems to be, "God forbid our great fighting forces should ever have to fight." Yet Congress cannot stop itself from lavishing more and more money on this magnificent military machine which it cannot bear to use.

In the current budget, for example, though national hardship is used to justify extensive cuts in domestic programs, the Pentagon is slathered with far more money than it requested or, apparently, can use.

Some of this squandering of the taxpayer's famous dollar can be put down to a merciful impulse among Republican budget-cutters. Pouring money into obsolete multi-billion-dollar defense projects, after all, does keep a lot of people working and many communities from collapsing into poverty.

In New Deal days, government's willingness to finance unnecessary work to provide jobs was deplored by Republicans as "boondoggling." It is heartening to see they have finally come round to accepting it as a humane act of government, at least for communities dependent on military spending.

You can't help wondering, though, if there isn't a long-term danger here. With Congress's reluctance to use the military for dangerous work, you might

wonder if the military will eventually degrade into a gold-plated make-work program for spreading the money around.

The real trouble, of course, is that since the Cold War's end there has been no sensible explanation of what the military is there for. It was there with a clear sense of mission when Soviet Russia collapsed. Since then it has just gone on being there, vast and heavily funded, but with no clear sense at all of what future it ought to be heading for.

Year after year passes, and there is still no very clear idea what to do with the military. This is because there is not even a murky idea of what the United States ought to be doing in this brave new world.

As indicated by the lurching back and forth on the Balkans under two presidents, there are no philosophical guidelines to what U.S. policy should be in this new world.

The nasty tendency of certain types to refer to the president as a "draft dodger" shows, among other things, that the new professional military doesn't understand its own history. Except for Bush, a combat pilot, and Senator Bob Dole, an authentic war hero, recent and present presidential campaigners have mostly been "draft dodgers."

The new professional Army was created because draft-dodging had become a popular form of political action. This forced the politicians to abolish the historic citizens' army. So many citizens saying "No" to the Vietnam War endangered government's power to make war without popular support.

President Richard M. Nixon ended the draft, and the current all-pro military was born, the product of grand-scale draft-dodging and politicians' fears of the classic citizens' army.

New York Times Service

By Paula Span
Washington Post Service

NEW YORK — It's a quandary. Julia Ormond is ravishing, too beautiful to believe. She's starring in the remake of the cherished 1954 celluloid fairy tale "Sabrina." It is the third film in a row in which her primary function is to be intoxicating, so irresistible that at least two leading men duel bitterly for her favor.

"I don't specify to my agent, 'I'm sorry, but there's only one man after me in this role; where's the other one?'" she says with mock penitence. These love triangles just keep her, somehow: Brad Pitt and Aidan Quinn lust for her in "Legends of the Fall"; Sean Connery and Richard Gere did in "First Knight." Now Harrison Ford and Greg Kinnear, taking on the Humphrey Bogart and William Holden roles, are at her feet in "Sabrina."

She's still slightly stunned. Five years ago, graduating from a British drama school, she thought that by this point she might have earned a union card and joined a decent theater company for lousy wages. She might be auditioning for a small part in her first film. Instead, director Sydney Pollack considered 40 or 50 acres on videotape and met several dozen more in person and decided that the ascendant Ormond had the best shot at helping moviegoers temporarily forget the first *Sabrina*, the incomparable Audrey Hepburn. Talk about fairy tales.

Trouble is, Ormond, who's 30, doesn't consider herself either a Hepburn-like pixie or a femme fatale. She's serious. She's about to sign a deal with Miramax that will allow her to develop, produce or direct movies of her own. Check out her someone-to-be-reckoned-with style: authoritative pinstripe pantsuit, no nail polish, no jewelry except for a watch, no asking permission before she lights up a Marlboro in a small hotel room.

Check out, too, the edits that issue along with the smoke: "It's up to women to develop their own stuff, take the responsibilities and the risks. ... Take the female away from the

appendix role — the wife, the girlfriend, the one who does the sex scene," she declares. "I can no longer sit back and say, 'Oh, there are so few good parts for women' when I've been given this opportunity."

Allure seems somewhat beside the point. She'd probably prefer to spend this day bumming around Hackney, her slightly seedy London neighborhood, in comfy clothes and a naked face. "I like wearing big sloppy jumpers and old jeans," she says. "I don't want to feel I can't step out of the house unless I have makeup on; that's a terrible state to be in, as a woman."

But reporters from at least three continents are descending on this midtown hotel for the opening to talk about the re-created "Sabrina." So Ormond has put on her mascara and is prepared to talk more about herself than she'd really like to. She's learning how to play the glamour game.

It has not come naturally. Pollack noticed her reserve — is it British? or just Ormondish? — when he flew to London to meet her in 1994. "I suspect that Julia is a little shy; she'll withhold who she really is for a while," he says. Accordingly their conversation, which was supposed to last 30 minutes or so, stretched to two hours. "I felt she was being very careful. And that carefulness didn't quite let me see what I was trying to see."

Even now, after shooting the film for six months on Long Island (in a mansion built by J.P. Morgan's grandson) and Martha's Vineyard and in New York and Paris, Pollack confesses, "I can't tell you I know her real."

Ormond was also cautious, and sometimes prickly, with the press at first. Suddenly every slick magazine wanted to profile the fetching newcomer, who grew panicky about losing her privacy and refused to talk much about her personal life. "Looking back, I think I've been a little tense. I think I sort of froze a bit," she says now. In print, "I came across as terribly serious. I'd read articles and think, 'Oh God, I wouldn't want to spend 10 minutes with her.'"



Costume designer for the Washington Post
The British actress is still slightly stunned by her success.

Moreover, this is an actress disinclined to swallow her opinions. Sometimes outspokenness served her well, as when she asked for, and reportedly got, script changes in the Arthurian saga "First Knight." But when she starred in the cable movie "Young Catherine" and disliked the way it was taking shape during long and arduous location work in Russia, "there were times when I lost it," Ormond acknowledges. "I blew my top. In a way, it was justified. And in a way, it's never justified."

But "Sabrina" seems to have been made with far less tension — in part a measure of the way Ormond, coolly intelligent and realizing the need for some course correction, is learning the ropes. She and Pollack did spar more than a week over whether Sabrina — the chauffeur's daughter with the perpetual crush on the tycoon's son — should have an English accent. Ormond said no: The script indicated that the family had been in the United States since *Sabrina* was a child. Pollack said yes: For "the music, the sound of the film I needed the exoticness, the poetry" of plummy Brit tones.

"In the past, I would have really dug up," Ormond says. This time, she relented and worked with a dialogue. What was the magazine saying with that photograph? Ormond remembers thinking. She supplies an answer: "This is the new generation of women in film. This is what they do: They pose on magazine covers in their underwear."

Not her. In her next movie — "Smilla's Sense of Snow," adapted from the best-selling novel by Peter Høeg and directed by Bille August ("Pelle the Conqueror") — Ormond plays an unusually shrewd and fearless heroine, a Greenland-born scientist-detective who, falls and dances, a horde of attacking bad guys. And only one man falls in love with her. It's a far cry from being the exotic object, the beauty, the princess.

POSTCARD

A Solution to Cairo Traffic: The Truck Cemetery

By Douglas Jehl
New York Times Service

CAIRO — On the outskirts of this teeming city, where the living crowd for shelter in the cemetery known as the City of the Dead, another kind of refugee has now been relegated to the tombs.

It is the lowly truck. Only at night may big trucks leave the dusty quarter to venture into Cairo's streets. By day, in a city densely packed with small cars, trucks have simply been banished. No matter that Cairo is one of the world's most centralized cities, with its main stores and offices crammed into downtown districts. No matter either that it is also Egypt's hub, with all roads passing through it.

The fact confronting the authorities is that the city's population of cars, now at 850,000, is climbing just as quickly as its

population of people, 16 million. But the no-trucks edict that Cairo officials have imposed as a response has transformed more than the city's traffic-choked streets.

"Everyone thinks the tombs have only the dead," said Mohammed Ahmed, a 37-year-old driver. "What they don't realize is that now the tombs also have our trucks."

Restricted to a zone called the Land of the Martyrs, the big Mercedes trucks that once lumbered from Egypt's ports to Cairo's markets now stand silent by the scores until night falls. In the shadow of a Mameluke sultan's tomb, men like Ahmed must wait while Fiats, Russian-made taxis and donkey carts jostle for space on the city's chaotic roads. Not until 10 P.M., when most of Cairo has headed for home, can the trucks rumble toward the center. And because the witching hour strikes again at 7 A.M., their daily race to deliver

what it takes to keep the city moving takes place almost entirely by dark.

It is not unusual for a moving company to deliver belongings at midnight, with haulers struggling until daybreak to carry heavy loads up cramped stairwells. Nor is it unusual for builders to work around the clock to accept delivery of sand, cement and steel beams. And if the unloading is not finished by dawn, the drivers and their trucks can do nothing but wait in place until 10 P.M., when the law permits them to move again. The regulations were put on the books six years ago and are now being rigidly enforced.

Officials say the ban on trucks is a temporary measure. But in the cacophony of horn-blowing, the traffic snarls and peril that remain part of Cairo's everyday fabric, there is no sign that truck drivers can hope again for the day when no street was beyond their reach.

Officials say the ban on trucks is a temporary measure. But in the cacophony of horn-blowing, the traffic snarls and peril that remain part of Cairo's everyday fabric, there is no sign that truck drivers can hope again for the day when no street was beyond their reach.

THE STARS COME OUT — Partners in the All Star Café in New York at the opening of the sports-theme restaurant from left, Andre Agassi, Joe Montana, Ken Griffey Jr., Monica Seles, Shaquille O'Neal and Wayne Gretzky

houses in the United States and in Europe.

A year after model Christie Brinkley and real estate developer Richard Tambor got married on a ski slope, they have agreed to a divorce settlement. "I'm happy it's over," Brinkley said.

Dennis Hopper wants bigger takings from the cult film "Easy Rider," which he and Peter Fonda starred in 1969. Fonda's Pando Company has paid Hopper one-third of the \$40 million to \$70 million in profit so far. But Hopper, in a lawsuit, says he wants 41 percent.

Barbra Streisand donated a \$15 million piece of property in California to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in 1993 with the hope that it would be used for environmental study. But two years later, the gift is a burden. Utility and maintenance costs are expected to top \$37,000 next year, because of money problems. And neighbors aren't happy with the additional traffic it has brought. "We can't pay for clinics. We can't keep libraries open," said Ruth White, president of the Rancho Canyon Homeowners Association. "We can't have money tied up in an investment like this."

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WEATHER

Europe

Forecast for Thursday through Saturday, as provided by Accu-Weather.

Legend: s=rain, pc=partly cloudy, c=cloudy, sh=snow, t=thunderstorms, l=light rain, n=snow

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news

Moors murderer's letter: MPs and victims' relatives dismiss newspaper article as attempt to aid parole appeal

Hindley friends say 'confession' was not a stunt

STEVE BOGAN
Chief Reporter

A letter written to a newspaper by the Moors murderer Myra Hindley, taking "full responsibility" for the part she played in the killings, in the 1960s, was condemned yesterday as a publicity stunt and as a forerunner to a parole application.

But her friends denied claims that the admissions were designed to prepare the public for an application for release.

In a 5,000-word article written in her prison cell, Hindley confessed to being "corrupt, wicked and evil" and said that she was "more culpable" than her fellow Moors murderer, Ian Brady. But there was little welcome for her frankness, as MPs and relatives of her victims described it as a publicity stunt.

While one MP called on Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to restrict prisoners' access to the media, friends of Hindley said her confessions were "from the heart".

Hindley, 53, wrote the article in the *Guardian* in response to an earlier article which described her as a psychopath. She wrote to the newspaper and denied having psychopathic tendencies, a denial which resulted in an invitation to explain why, if she was not mentally ill, she had taken part in the murders of five children.

During an astonishingly frank confession, she explains how she met Brady, became besotted by him and how she was slowly overwhelmed by his personality. She describes a miserable early life in which her father regularly beat her mother, but she does not try to shift blame for the murders on to Brady.

"I wasn't mad, because I must have been bad, because I had a slow process of corruption," she wrote. "I never attempted to justify my actions either to myself or Ian Brady. I was the more culpable of the two. If we had not met there would have been no murders, no crime at all. I would probably have got married, had children, and would now be a grandmother."

Roger Gale, chairman of the Conservative backbench media committee, criticised the *Guardian* for publishing the article and said he would ask Mr Howard to examine media access to prisoners. "I am becoming increasingly and very genuinely concerned at the manner in which convicted criminals are given access to a media desperate for salacious stories to assist them in their circulation war. What has been published today is in fact a 5,000-word publicity stunt on behalf of a murderer," he said.

Peter Topping, the former detective who took Hindley on to the Moors in 1987 to find more

bodies, said: "She has one ambition, one aim, and that is to obtain parole, and there will be, in this letter, a build-up to that sort of application, I feel."

But Joe Chapman, Hindley's former counsellor, said the article was from the heart. "This has been boiling up for some time now. I don't think any legal moves are close, although there will be an application for a judicial review of the Home Secretary's full life sentence."

One of Hindley's closest friends, who does not wish to be named, said: "This is not a stunt. Myra was accused of being a psychopath, yet throughout the years it has been accepted by all those who examined her that she was not mentally ill. This is her way of setting the record straight."

Andrew McCooey, Hindley's former solicitor, said: "I don't think this is part of any sort of concerted campaign to win the public over. For years, she listened to advisers who told her to say nothing while the world threw all it could at her. Recently, she has decided to go it alone and have her say..."

Hindley was jailed for life in 1966, with Brady, for killing Lesley Ann Downey, 10, and Edward Evans, 17. Brady was also convicted of murdering John Kilbride, 12. They later admitted killing Pauline Reade, 16, and Keith Bennett, 12.



Crime partners: Hindley and Brady on the Moors where they buried their victims, in the 1960s. Photograph: James Nicholson



Status of vocational qualifications to get boost

JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

Vocational qualifications may get a new name under proposals being considered by the Government's chief adviser on exams, Sir Ron Dearing.

Sir Ron, whose report on education for 16- to 19-year-olds will be published next spring, is

considering calling advanced vocational qualifications "applied A-levels".

The aim is to achieve higher status for vocational qualifications, which tend to be taken by pupils of lower academic ability than those studying A-levels.

At present 16-year-olds choose to study GNVQs - ad-

vanced vocational qualifications - or A-levels.

Sir Ron is looking at ways of bringing the two qualifications closer together by including common content for the first year of study and by insisting on "core skills" of literacy, numeracy and information technology.

A core first-year syllabus would be easy to introduce in

subjects such as business, design, technology, sports studies and media studies where A-levels are already on offer.

Sir Ron is also considering changes in the way vocational qualifications are assessed. A series of reports has said that their assessment is unreliable because there are too few external checks on standards.

Sir Ron may propose that written external exams should be introduced for GNVQs.

His report is expected to advocate that all sixth-formers should take five subjects in their first year which might be a mixture of vocational and traditional A-level courses.

Some pupils might then go on to A-level while others might

leave with their "intermediate" qualification.

The report is also likely to suggest a common certificate for A-level and vocational qualifications as another means of breaking down the barriers between the two. Teachers and employers have long been critical of A-level for being too narrow and specialised.

Adams puts case for IRA keeping arms

ALAN MURDOCH
Dublin

Sinn Fein yesterday urged the international decommissioning body headed by the former US senator George Mitchell to recognise that the task of removing all arms from the Northern Ireland conflict would not be resolved simply by disarming republicans.

The party's president, Gerry Adams, said its submission was a "political" one and yesterday's initial session did not involve establishing an inventory of what weaponry the IRA at present holds but had dealt with the arms issue in a "global way".

"This entailed arguing for dis-

armament of all factions

including withdrawal of British

security forces, and not just re-

publican elements."

Mr Adams and colleagues

dealt at length in the two-and-

a-half-hour meeting in Dublin

Castle with Loyalists weapons,

some of which Sinn Fein main-

tain were supplied by British

military intelligence, and the

number of privately held

firearms among Unionists.

The submission challenged

British assertions that the se-

curity forces could not be as-

sessed in the same context as

paramilitaries. Sinn Fein raised

alleged collusion between

British intelligence and Loyal-

ist paramilitaries.

Mr Adams said the meeting

had been "constructive and

positive" and said he had been

impressed by the speed and ur-

gency with which Mr Mitchell

and his colleagues were

approaching their task.

He added that in three days

the commission had met more

people and heard more sub-

missions than the British gov-

ernment had over 16 months

since the IRA ceasefire.

Mr Adams appeared more

optimistic than on Friday, when

he said Sinn Fein would not

speak any more authoritatively

on IRA weapons than other

parties. This caused raised ey-

brows among Irish government

figures who insisted that during

autumn discussions in Duhlin

Sinn Fein gave assurances it

would speak for the IRA.

The commission was on its

second day in Duhlin, after two

days in Belfast hearing from

British and Northern Ire-

land parties. Other submissions

yesterday came from the Irish

government, delivered by for-

mer defence minister Dick Spring and

justice minister Nora Owen; from

from Garda Siochana repre-

sentatives who gave intelligence

on the scale of the IRA arsen-

al; and Irish Catholic and Protes-

tant Church of Ireland leaders.

Mr Spring stressed the com-

mission, which also includes a

Canadian general, John de

Chastelain, and the former

Finnish premier Harri Holkeri,

had asked for time to consider

submissions. Mr Spring later re-

iterated that the twin-track

process and the objective of

demilitarisation required com-

promise on all sides.

There was weekend specu-

lation in the Duhlin media that

Irish ministers would urge the

commission to suggest com-

promise proposals to help over-

come the stalemate over

IRA decommissioning before

Sinn Fein can join all party talks.

It was claimed these proposals

might include recommending the

IRA end punishment beat-

ings, recruitment, training and

surveillance operations.

While Irish ministers believe

paramilitary decommissioning

is a possibility in the context of

an overall political settlement,

it is convinced there is no pos-

sibility of this happening prior

to all-party talks.

■ Two men fighting extradition

to Britain were freed on bail by

the High Court in Duhlin yes-

terday. Nessa Quinlan, 30, and

Pearse McCauley, 31, were

released on bail of £70,000 each

with strict conditions they

report daily to gardai.

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cations as another means of

breaking down the barriers be-

tween the two. Teachers and

employers have long been

critical of A-level for being too

narrow and specialised.

In effect, ministers were pre-

judging the appeals by making

Car suicide father killed his four children

IAN MACKINNON

A father faced with a mountain of debt killed himself and his four young children days after receiving a demand from the Child Support Agency that he pay £2,800 within two weeks.

An inquest yesterday heard that Philip Mitchell, a 36-year-old divorcee, took his own life and those of his children, Jonathan, nine, Cathryn, seven, and twins Jessica and Christopher, six, in a fume-filled car.

But during the hearing at Crewe, Cheshire, no mention was made of his debts or the demand from the CSA for £2,800. These were revealed by police afterwards.

Campaigners against the Child Support Act seized on the tragic deaths as an inevitable consequence of the Government's policy in ensuring that fathers meet maintenance costs.

The Network Against the Child Support Act said that since the legislation came into force it had claimed 35 lives and would cost more as a result of the impossible financial burdens it imposed on some families.

The Cheshire coroner, John Hiltbert, was told how Mr Mitchell, who had open access to his children, collected them from Church Walk Primary School in Northwich, Cheshire on 28 September and took them to a restaurant. He had agreed to look after them until 8pm while their mother, Linda, 34, went to netball practice.

However, Mr Mitchell did not



Philip Mitchell: Mountain of debt and CSA demand

return them and Mrs Mitchell telephoned and visited his flat to try to find the children.

The following morning Mr Mitchell's car was discovered in Middlewich with its engine running and a hose-pipe leading from the exhaust into the car.

Detective Chief Inspector Jim Buckley said he found the bodies of Mr Mitchell and his four children inside the car. He added that a few days before he died Mr Mitchell had received a demand to pay £2,800 within 14 days, was shortly due to begin payments of £51.50 a week in child maintenance and had debts totalling more than £20,000.

To supplement his earnings as a cutter, Mr Mitchell had taken an evening cleaning job but had lost the contract. In a desperate

attempt to get money quickly he had taken bad advice which led him into further debt. He tried to meet this through pyramid selling, gambling in casinos and paying off loans by taking out other loans.

But Det Ch Insp Buckley said that had Mr Mitchell gone to the Citizens' Advice Bureau he could have made arrangements to pay off his debts.

"No debt is serious enough to take your own life, let alone the lives of four children," said Det Ch Insp Buckley. "I feel angry at the way Philip Mitchell went about the finalisation. Had he sought proper advice he would have been given it and been allowed to pay those debts off. Five people died and there was absolutely no need for it."

Det Ch Insp Buckley added:

"I think the CSA demand was one of several he received that week. I cannot be specific in saying that was the one demand that pushed him over the edge."

But Mike Pimblott, of the Network Against the CSA, said that this case was part of a pattern. "It's a very tragic and sad thing, but it's not unusual. There are bound to be tragic cases because of the complete and utter incompetence of the CSA."

Trevor Berry, of Families Need Fathers, said that the fault lay in the inflexibility of the system and the dangers would lurk until a proper appeals procedure had been put in place. The CSA declined to comment.

The coroner recorded a verdict of unlawful killing of the four children.



Tragic deaths: The Mitchell children, from left, Jonathan, Jessica, Christopher and Cathryn who died with their father in a fume-filled car.

Mensa boss sacked 'for using body to run own business'

WILL BENNETT



Harold Gale: Claims unfair dismissal from Mensa

The top official at Mensa, the society for people with high IQs, made thousands of pounds by running a business from the organisation's headquarters, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Harold Gale used his position to increase subscriptions to his own magazine and sold puzzles to newspapers who thought they were buying Mensa games, it was alleged. Mensa staff spent time working for Mr Gale's company, Harold Gale Associates, and one, who was a director of his company, received a 20 per cent pay rise.

Mr Gale, 54, from Lilleshall, Warwickshire, was sacked for gross misconduct last March after 19 years as executive director of Mensa. His dismissal followed a raid on its Wolverhampton headquarters by society officers, including Sir Clive Sinclair, the inventor, who is chairman.

Mr Gale says that members of the British Mensa Committee, the organisation's ruling body, were aware of his commercial activities. He is alleging wrongful dismissal at the tribunal in Birmingham.

Alastair Smail, for Mensa, told the tribunal: "Mr Gale had total authority and be-

cause of that complete trust was placed in him by the British Mensa Committee. He was well rewarded... and was paid about £60,000 a year."

"Most people in Mensa knew he published a small magazine called *Mind Games* and that he had set up a private company called Harold Gale Associates Limited.

"Up until 1985, *Mind Games* had been on sale in newsagents and Mensa advertised in it to attract new members. But in 1985 it became a subscription-only magazine. Mr Gale attracted new subscribers by approaching people who had approached Mensa for mem-

bership. The British Mensa Committee thought that *Mind Games* was produced in Mr Gale's own time. He was dismissed because he breached the complete trust Mensa placed in him to pursue their interests.

"He had exercised his undoubtedly entrepreneurial skills to promote the interests of his own company, not Mensa's,"

ensuring that Mensa met his overheads."

Mr Gale said that Mr Gale, who built up Mensa from a small, 1,300-strong society to a membership of 40,000, "passed off the work of his own company as being Mensa's".

Kenneth Sutton, secretary of British Mensa, told the tribunal that Mensa derives much of its income from selling merchandise with the society's logo, puzzle-books, quizzes and intelligence tests. After Mr Gale's suspension, Mr Sutton said he discovered that money from newspaper quizzes had been going to Harold Gale Associates and one puzzle seller said she spent half her time on Mr. Gale's company business.

The tribunal continues today.



Sir Clive Sinclair: Helped raid society headquarters

Dismissed soldier takes case to European court

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY

Defence Correspondent

A British soldier dismissed by a court martial in 1991 yesterday won the right to refer his case to the European Court of Human Rights.

The military court reduced Alex Findlay in rank and dismissed him from the British Army for threatening fellow soldiers while allegedly suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder following service in the Falklands in 1982. His case threatens to overthrow the independent system of military law in Britain and has influenced changes in the Armed Forces' Bill, announced on the Queen's speech last month.

But last night the Ministry of Defence said: "We did not think we at any time breached the European Convention on Human Rights." It said the challenge was based on the way the military justice system was closely tied in with the management and discipline of the armed forces.

Mr Findlay joined the Scots Guards in 1980. He served in the Falklands in 1982, when the battalion played a decisive role in breaking the Argentine defences on the approaches to the capital, Port Stanley. He suffered a back injury during train-

ing in 1987 and in 1990, as a Lance Sergeant (equivalent to corporal in most units), was alleged to have held members of his unit at pistol point after a drinking session in Northern Ireland. He allegedly held a pistol to one soldier's head.

In 1991 he was convicted by a court martial and sentenced to two years' prison. In 1992 he applied for a judicial review but the High Court ruled that

EC edict sends French on the slippery slopes

ANDREW MARSHALL

French ski instructors may lack a little of their usual sang-froid this year as they whiz down the slopes in their on-so-tight red ski suits.

The European Commission has decided that France may be breaking European law by keeping out instructors from other countries and is threatening to get tough with Paris.

In particular, France has been charged with keeping out instructors from Britain - a country that has a claim to have invented downhill skiing.

"Ski instructors who have

qualified in other member states have encountered a persistent refusal by the French authorities to recognise their diplomas," the European Commission said in a statement yesterday.

The Commission considers that French regulations concerning sport are too restrictive regarding the access of professionals with qualifications gained in other member states.

It has opened the second stage of infringement proceedings against Paris, and could go to the European Court if life does not become easier for instructors from abroad.

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In particular, France has been charged with keeping out instructors from Britain - a country that has a claim to have invented downhill skiing.

"Ski instructors who have

been held in contempt of court for failing to pay child support have been given a new lease of life by a European court's decision to rule that they should not be forced to pay off debts they cannot afford.

They are also adept at dreaming up elaborate excuses in the wake of accidents, says the Mori poll for the British School of Motoring.

More than one-tenth of those motorists questioned admitted to picking their noses. 16 per cent to flicking through the morning papers or reading a

book, and 2 per cent to writing letters.

Amusing as the results are, they have left Keith Cameron, the BSM's road safety consultant, rather worried.

"It is amazing how often you notice people reading papers while driving along or turning their head to talk to the person in the back seat and it is often amusing to see people singing along to the radio or picking their nose," he said.

People do the strangest things in their car, but they simply don't realise how dangerous they are. If you take your eyes off the road for only one second at 70mph you will have covered over 105 feet.

Drivers over 65 years of age are more likely to say they concentrate only on their driving, while 99 per cent of 17- to 24-year-olds combine additional ac-

tivities when behind the wheel. The survey found that young people are six times more likely to hold hands with their passengers and three times more likely to eat and drink in the car.

Drivers' excuses are also hard to swallow. Among the explanations given were:

■ "An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my car and vanished."

■ "I once collided with a stationary lorry coming the other way."

■ "The pedestrian had no idea which direction to run, so I ran over him."

■ "I looked across at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment."

"Even at 30mph you are covering 45 feet every second. It is also very difficult to concentrate on two things at once, let alone keep control of the car when lighting up a cigarette, eating a sandwich or holding hands with your passenger."

People also put on their make-up, comb their hair and chat on the phone. Women sing more than men while driving, but men are twice as likely to be distracted by people in the street or other cars and to read maps and papers.

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